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Peace Now demonstrators arrested en route to Hebron

A member of Peace Now holding a placard reading 'Stop the disgrace in Hebron' was among 32 demonstrators arrested by police at the Gush Etzion junction yesterday. Peace activists barred from entering Hebron to protest a state-sponsored jubilee celebration, blocked the junction for several hours until they were permitted to protest at Kiryat Arba instead. Story, Page 2. (AP)

Hamas suspect in Sharif killing denies confession

Israeli Islamist leader Darwish seeking to mediate between Hamas and PA

By STEVE RODAN
and MOHAMMED NAJIB

Hamas member Ghassan Adassi, charged by the Palestinian Authority with complicity in the killing of bombmaker Muhi Sharif, sent a message from his jail cell last night that he was tortured by PA interrogators to confess to a crime he did not commit.

Meanwhile, Sheikh Abdullah Nimr Darwish, the head of Israel's Islamic Movement, began mediation efforts between the PA and Hamas, meeting yesterday in Gaza with PA Chairman Yasser Arafat and later with Hamas leaders.

"I know that this letter can lead to my death," Adassi wrote in the message obtained by *The Jerusalem Post*. "I know, however, that I have died a million deaths already in prison."

"To the whole world, I say I don't know anything in the murder of Muhi Sharif. I didn't participate in or witness his death as attested by my interrogators. I gave this version after torture and threats that I had never experienced in my life."

Adassi said PA interrogators accused him of collaborating with Israel and killing Sharif "for Jewish interests."

"They beat me harshly and prevented me from sleeping for three continuous days. They hung me by my hands from the ceiling of my cell... They compelled me to sign by force," he wrote.

Adassi is one of five Hamas members accused of participating in the killing of Sharif on March 29. The PA said Hamas fugitive Imad Awadallah has confessed to the killing of Sharif and blowing up his car to conceal the cause of

death. Hamas said the PA has so far detained about 300 of its members. The PA said the number is about 60.

Imad is the brother of Adel Awadallah, now regarded as the most wanted Hamas fugitive.

Palestinian Preventive Security Service chief Jibril Rajoub denied Adassi's accusations and doubted the authenticity of the letter. "If he was strong enough to type this letter, I don't see how he was tortured," Rajoub said.

In his letter, in which he appeals for protection from Arafat, Adassi accuses Rajoub of threatening to harm his sister unless he repeated his confession in a meeting with Palestinian Legislative Council member Khatem Abdul Khader, a Fatah representative from Jerusalem.

See HAMAS, Page 2

Blair asks Clinton, Major to sell peace treaty to Irish

US president due in Britain week before referendums

By GERRARD RAVEN

LONDON (Reuters) — The British government is hoping US President Bill Clinton will visit Northern Ireland to push for a "yes" vote in the referendum next month on last week's peace agreement, according to Prime Minister Tony Blair's spokesman.

Clinton, who took an active interest in Northern Ireland peace negotiations, is visiting Britain next month to attend the three-day annual meeting of the Group of Eight — the world's seven major industrialized countries plus Russia.

"People are hoping that he may

be able to go to Ireland," the spokesman said.

A spokesman for Blair, currently on holiday in Spain, said he had spoken on Saturday to Clinton and

Ireland, the end of a
beginning, Page 2

former British leader John Major, who got the Northern Ireland talks started, to thank them for their part in promoting the accord.

The prime minister feels, the

government feels, that if those who have given support to this process are able to, and wish to, support it at this stage that would be a very good thing," the spokesman said.

Clinton is due in Britain on May 15, exactly a week before separate referendums in Northern Ireland and the Irish Republic on new constitutional arrangements for the British-ruled province.

A "no" vote in either plebiscite would doom the delicate compromise proposals and send the British and Irish governments back to the drawing board.

See IRISH, Page 2

Kibbutz woman raped, murdered outside home

By GALIT LIPKIS BECK

Yamit Regev, 23, a member of Kibbutz Na'an, was found brutally murdered yesterday morning in a wheat field several meters from the entrance to her home.

Her body had been badly beaten and showed signs of strangulation and rape, police said, citing preliminary findings. She apparently was attacked by more than one person.

Regev had spent Friday night with friends at the kibbutz pub. At about 2:30 a.m. she left her friends there and was not seen since, said police. They said there was no indication the murder was nationally motivated, but are investigating all possibilities.

Regev's family thought she had spent the night with a friend, but became worried when she did not turn up Saturday afternoon. The friend was convinced Regev had stayed the night with her family.

The family started to search for her around the kibbutz on Saturday night, and after failing to find her

called police. After an all-night search, her body was spotted by a volunteer policeman at 8 a.m.

Family, friends, kibbutz volunteers, and foreign workers living in the area were questioned by police after the body was discovered. Police still want to question people from the area and people who were with Regev at the pub.

Police say Regev may have struggled with her assailants near her room and then was dragged to the wheat field, where she was murdered.

According to kibbutz secretary Yair Shavit, Regev spoke to one friend after she left the pub and waved to another on her way to her room. He said she walked part of the way back to her room with a friend.

"At the moment there are no findings that can explain what happened afterward," said Shavit.

Jerusalem police are investigating whether there is a connection between Regev's murder and the rape-murder of 17-year-old Noa Eyal in Jerusalem's Ramot section in February.

Several hours after the murder was discovered, Gezer Regional Council head Peter Reis said settlements in the area have suffered from an increasing amount of vehicle and agricultural equipment theft and more burglaries since the Ministry of Defense cut back on security forces in the area.

Heat wave to last through Thursday

By MICHAEL YUDELMAN
and LIAT COLLINS

The heat wave which began on Saturday is expected to continue, at least until Thursday. However, residents of the Coastal Plain will experience a temperature drop today from 40 degrees to 32-33 degrees, together with a sharp rise in humidity, from about 10 percent to 70%.

Emergency medical teams were called to deal with dozens of people suffering from heat-related problems.

The Meteorological Center at Beit Dagan said a heat wave at this time of year is not a rare occurrence. However, seven days in a row of such intense heat at this time of year is far less frequent and last took place in the Coastal Plain in 1994.

Nature protection bodies are calling on hikers to take extra care because of the heat. Daytrippers should ensure they have sufficient water and wear hats. Visitors should also be extra vigilant with fire and ensure all cigarettes are snuffed out and fires completely doused.

The Nature Reserves and National Parks Authority is recommending hikers to sites with water attractions. Other options include places with caves.

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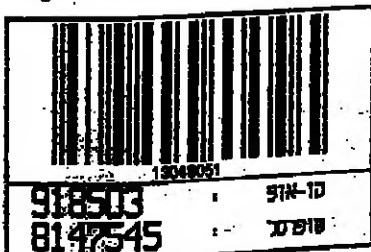
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Thousands mark jubilee in Hebron

By MARGOT DUDKEVITCH

Celebrating the nation's 50th anniversary and the 30th anniversary of the renewal of the Hebron Jewish community, tens of thousands yesterday flocked to Hebron to join in the first state-sponsored event of the jubilee celebrations.

Despite protests that the jubilee committee had transferred NIS 300,000 to the Hebron community to assist in the celebrations, committee head Doron Shmueli told

reporters that the event cost far more and the Hebron community would foot the bill.

Visitors, wearing hats and carrying bottles of water because of the heat, were welcomed by the community and given explanations about the city's different quarters. "Hebron needs to be in our hands," said Abraham Sharavani, who was born there 65 years ago. "Our forefathers are buried here. How could we ever leave such a holy place?"

One person was lightly injured by a stone outside the Machpela Cave in the afternoon, otherwise the celebrations went smoothly.

Hebron Jewish community spokesman Noam Arnon said some 80,000 visitors took part in the celebration, arriving in 750 buses organized by the community, a few hundred private buses, and thousands of private vehicles.

The main celebration kicked off shortly after 2:30 at a stage

erected outside the Machpela Cave. Dignitaries attending the event included Ashkenazi Chief Rabbi Yisrael Lau, Justice Minister Tzahi Hanegbi, Education Minister Yitzhak Levy, Transport Minister Shaul Yahalom, MKs Michael Eitan (Likud) and Meir Porush (United Torah Judaism).

The government is interested in maintaining and strengthening the Jewish presence in Hebron, and at the same time protecting the rights

of the Palestinians and honoring the signed agreements," Eitan told reporters.

As the day drew to an end, Hebron settlers recalled a day 30 years ago when a small group of people headed by Rabbi Moshe Levinger decided to renew the Jewish presence in Hebron. Levinger's wife Miriam recalled that "we sensed that we had made an historic breakthrough, and we all felt deeply moved and excited."

Peace Now demonstrators clash with police

By MARGOT DUDKEVITCH

Hundreds of Peace Now activists clashed with security forces at the Gush Etzion junction yesterday, blocking traffic for several hours on the main road linking Jerusalem to Hebron.

Police were forced to remove protesters laying in the road and, during the clashes that ensued, some 32 people were detained for questioning and five policemen and two demonstrators were injured.

Police spokesman Opher Sivan said last night that 19 activists had been released after questioning and that 10 were still detained and criminal charges would be brought against them for attacking police.

The demonstrators, who intended to continue on to Hebron to protest the celebrations there, were prevented by police from doing so.

Police officers at the site informed the activists that they feared violence would break out if they were allowed to continue to Hebron. The activists split up into small groups and lay in the middle of the road, creating long traffic jams as cars and buses taking visitors to Hebron to attend the celebrations were forced to wait for up to two hours.

The IDF declared the junction a closed military zone and police called on the public to use alternative routes.

As police attempted to maintain order, demonstrators spilled out of

the buses and into the road, chanting "Peace yes, occupation no," and holding up signs reading "Settlements in Hebron - a stain on Zionism" and "Jubilee celebrations in Hebron - a disgrace for Israel."

As tempers flared, Peace Now secretary-general Moshe Raz refused an offer by Judea and Samaria police, chief Cmdr. Yitzhak Aharonovitch to allow 11 bus loads of activists into Hebron.

"Despite a prior agreement that the group would not be allowed to enter Hebron, they blocked the junction forcing us to remove them. The area is a closed military zone and because of their actions people are forced to travel an alternative route," said Aharonovitch. Raz said that the activists would remain at the junction until police allowed the entire group to continue on to Hebron. He rejected claims by police that they feared for the safety of the activists and had received warnings that extreme right-wing elements might attempt to cause violence.

Some two-and-a-half hours later an agreement was reached and the Peace Now activists were allowed to travel to Kiryat Arba, where they held a protest rally before dispersing.

Their acts were sharply criticized by members of the Hebron Jewish community, who charged that the police handled the demonstrators with kid gloves.

Ireland: The end of a beginning

COMMENT

By THOMAS O'DWYER

It is typical of the Irish to take the opinion of a visionary poet more seriously than that of any politician.

So Nobel Laureate Seamus Heaney took pride of place among the weighty opinion writers in yesterday's *Irish Times*, as they analyzed the peace agreement that aims to stop 800 years of history dead in its tracks, and then change its direction.

"Our island is full of comfortless noises," Heaney wrote in 1976, when in shock at the murder of a British ambassador in Ireland.

Now the world has applauded a truly astonishing peace treaty that rode into Ireland out of nowhere - powered by the extraordinary willpower of President Bill Clinton, and carried to fruition by a gathering of remarkable negotiators and political leaders.

The world may be applauding, but what is important is what the Irish think. This is a land where the word "historic" is likely to raise peals of derisive laughter.

Garret Fitzgerald, formerly one of Ireland's most remarkable prime ministers, yesterday recalled the "historic" Sunningdale agreement of 1973: "It seemed to me that this was truly a turning point in the history of our island... Sadly, Sunningdale proved to be a false dawn - and was followed by almost 25 years of appalling violence."

Saying he felt the same elation now, but wondered for a moment if this new treaty would be another



Sinn Féin President Gerry Adams walks through the village of Carrickmore, County Tyrone, Northern Ireland yesterday during a march marking the anniversary of the 1916 Easter uprising.

er false dawn, Fitzgerald firmly added "I think not."

Except for the tiny lunatic fringes left on the outer edges of the Irish Nationalists and pro-British Unionists in Northern Ireland, even the most cautious of Irish, British, and American experts are elated.

The poet Heaney seems to agree this is the mood of a nation that

has seen enough false dawns to recognize a real one at last. It is Easter weekend, and it was Easter 1916 that defined the final struggle for Ireland's freedom, when a handful of men for a brief time held the city of Dublin against the British Empire, and in their fatal stand became immortal.

On the achievement of this 1998 weekend, Heaney writes in the

Times: "There is an Easter energy about it, a sense of arrival rather than wreckage, and what is nonpareil about the new conditions is the promise they offer of a new covenant between people living in this country. For once, and at long last, the language of the Bible can be appropriated by those with a vision of the future rather than those who

sing the battle hymns of the past."

Another poet, Louis MacNeice, long ago wrote that Ireland is a place where a person might live to see the consequences of one particular action.

Such an action has been done in Belfast this weekend. The belief is real that the Northern Irish may at last live, rather than die, from the consequences.

B'nai B'rith head: Croatia allowed Sakic into country

By JAY BUSHINSKY

Fugitive Croatian World War II crimes suspect Dinko Sakic visited Zagreb three years ago to attend a reunion of pro-Nazi war veterans, despite President Franjo Tudjman's vow that the alleged Jasenovac death camp commandant would not be allowed to enter the country, a leading American Jewish leader said yesterday.

In an interview with *The Jerusalem Post*, B'nai B'rith International President Tommy Baer said his organization has been hunting for Sakic - who only last week was publicly exposed in a television report as living in Argentina - since December 1994, when it

learned that Sakic had been living in Argentina since 1947.

Up to 500,000 Serbs, Jews and Gypsies perished in Jasenovac - mainly at the hands of the Croatian "Ustashi" Fascists, who collaborated with the SS.

"We found out about Sakic from an interview with him that appeared in *Panorama*, a Croatian publication that is based in Zagreb," Baer said. "I went to see President Tudjman in July 1995, mainly to discuss Sakic with him. He didn't want to talk about him, but I managed to get it in. Tudjman said he would prevent Sakic from entering the country and deal with Croatian war criminals after the Bosnia crisis was over."

However, Baer recalled that when the situation calmed down two and half years ago and the Dayton agreement was signed, B'nai B'rith contacted the Croatian Embassy in Washington to remind its staff of Tudjman's promise. "Nothing came of it," Baer said.

Baer contended that Tudjman met Sakic during a visit to Buenos Aires in December 1994.

"I don't know if it was a private meeting or whether they chatted during a reception for local Croats. There is a large Croat community in Argentina."

Baer said Sakic was living 300 kilometers south of Buenos Aires. His whereabouts

were discussed with the Argentine foreign and justice ministers.

When Buenos Aires' TV Channel 13 disclosed last Monday that Sakic had found shelter in Argentina, Baer said the justice minister immediately issued a warrant for his arrest.

On Friday, Croatian Justice Minister Miroslav Separovic said he has started legal and diplomatic procedures to return Sakic for trial. Argentinean President Carlos Menem has indicated he would not oppose his return to Croatia.

The last information obtained by Baer about Sakic was that the suspect had told friends he was leaving home to go to Buenos Aires "to straighten things out."

interrogated Reuters journalist Abbas Murni on suspicion that he videotaped Hamas fugitive Adel Awadallah last week.

The Gaza office of Reuters has been closed since Friday and PA officials said it will reopen next Sunday after a meeting between them and Reuters representatives.

PA Communications Minister Imad Falouji, a senior Hamas activist, defended the PA investigation. He said the PA will not allow anybody to take the law into his own hands and will limit troublemakers within the Palestinian people.

"The PA must know the reasons behind this accident," he said following his return from Saudi Arabia. "This is a Palestinian issue and the PA must do its duty to expose the facts."

Falouji said he will be in contact with Hamas leaders to try to achieve a reconciliation with the PA. He said he hopes the PA will not have to "take steps against any Palestinian political movement."

Meanwhile, the PA continued to press Hamas activists and Palestinian journalists to muzzle criticism of the authority.

Palestinian sources said two members of PA General Intelligence ordered the Awadallah family in Ramallah not to speak to journalists. Meanwhile, the Palestinian Police

interrogated Reuters journalist Abbas Murni on suspicion that he videotaped Hamas fugitive Adel Awadallah last week.

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IRISH

Continued from Page 1

Clinton said in his weekly radio address in Washington on Saturday that the future of Northern Ireland "lies in the hearts and hands of its people."

British newspapers speculated that Clinton might offer a \$100 million five-year investment plan

for Northern Ireland to help relieve unemployment and provide an economic incentive for voters to endorse the deal.

They also suggested that Blair and Major might make a joint visit to Northern Ireland in the run-up to the referendum. But the spokesman said no such visit is currently being planned.

Blair, speaking from Spain to

Sky television news, praised Major for his role in securing peace.

"John Major was one of the main architects of this whole process and... we owe a deep debt of gratitude to him," Blair said.

Jay Bushinsky adds:

The government hailed the Northern Ireland peace agreement yesterday, attributing it to the "determined efforts" expended by all the parties and especially by Mitchell.

"After many years of bloodshed and acts of terror in which thousands of people, including many civilians, lost their lives, a breakthrough has at last been achieved after hard negotiations," a community said.

Moshe Raviv, the former ambassador to the Court of St. James, termed the agreement a "triumph of reason over extremism, of courage and leadership over bigotry and primitiveness, of hope over despair and continuous bloodshed."

Raviv, who was based in London until last December, said the pact was the result of the determination of two British prime ministers - Blair and John Major - to embark on a new effort to solve the Northern Ireland problem.

He noted that there was "a broad consensus in the British public that was supportive of their effort."

"When Major negotiated, Blair supported him and when Blair negotiated the leadership of the Conservative Party supported him."

Raviv also credited the role played by Clinton in bringing Sinn Féin to the negotiating table.

He praised the courage of the other Protestant and Roman

Raviv recalled the philosophical approach to the then-unresolved Northern Ireland dispute expressed by the late prime minister Yitzhak Rabin during one of his visits to the United Kingdom.

He quoted Rabin as having told his British hosts, "You have a ceasefire, but no negotiations. I have negotiations, but no ceasefire."

HAMAS

Continued from Page 1

Adassi said Rajoub told him he had detained his sister and threatened to harm her if he retracted his confession. Later, Adassi learned that his sister had not been in PA custody.

"Today, I stand innocent before the Palestinian people and Hamas and tell them that I didn't deceive them," Adassi wrote. "But the pain of torture was greater than I could bear."

Palestinian human rights groups have requested permission to meet Adassi and Awadallah to ensure that their confessions are genuine.

Hamas renewed its appeals for the release of its leaders during a rally at the Islamic University yesterday. Several Hamas figures, including Abdel Aziz Rantisi, have been detained since the organization criticized the PA inquiry committee which blamed Sharif's death on a feud within Hamas.

PA Secretary-General Tayeb Abdul Rahim, head of the committee, responded that he had consistently informed Hamas leaders of details of the investigation and several times asked for their help in finding Awadallah.

"We told them that if you want to deny such a story, please help us capture the murderer, because Imad Awadallah has the solution to the riddle - since we have confessions from those who participated in this process or were apparently involved," he said.

Abdul Rahim rejected Hamas

With great sorrow we announce the passing of our mother, sister, and grandmother

FLORA (Manik) SAMUEL

The funeral will take place tomorrow, Tuesday, April 14, 1998, at 5 p.m., at the new Lod Cemetery.

Mourners: Isaac and Eti Samuel
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Aaron and Rika Samuel

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Sister: Shulka Rones and family
Son: Azi and Ruth Ben-Yishai / Kopilovich
Daughters: Rikki and Yuval Benyamini
Nili and Yosi Peri (Freitag)
Hilli and Guy Kopilovich-Agin
Liat and Sheli Kopilovich
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Gal, Omer, Or
Nati, Gur
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Four Mothers lobby abroad for pullout

By DAVID RUDGE

A delegation of the Four Mothers movement is meeting with politicians and business people in Europe in an attempt to garner support for the government's proposal to pull the IDF out of south Lebanon under UN Security Council Resolution 425.

Rachel Ben-Dor, movement leader, said the four-member delegation was also hoping to meet with figures who had close ties with Lebanon and Syria.

"We were very happy with the government's decision to adopt the UN Security Council resolution. At the same time we are worried about the time it might take before this proposal is implemented," said Ben-Dor, one of the founders of the movement. "We feel, therefore, that we have to take the initiative and try somehow to help to get this government decision implemented so that it won't remain just a decision on paper."

Ben-Dor said the delegation was in Italy, but would be visiting other European countries and

that two members at least would be staying there for about a month.

"We have already been in touch with the embassies here in Israel and we have been asking them what they can do to help promote the initiative," she said.

The Four Mothers movement, which began the campaign for an IDF withdrawal from south Lebanon, is also seeking a meeting with UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan and members of the US administration as part of the efforts to seek support for the 425 initiative.

In the meantime, Ben-Dor stressed that they intend to maintain pressure on the government to press ahead with the proposal.

One of the events planned includes a tour along the northern border at the end of Passah under the slogan, "The Exodus for Egypt has been marked, now is the time for an exodus from Lebanon."

Ben-Dor said they were also planning a rally and demonstration on June 6 to mark the anniversary of the Lebanon War.

Leaders of Northern border communities back 425 initiative

By DAVID RUDGE

The heads of northern border communities, who met with Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai in Metulla yesterday, gave their backing to the government's Lebanon withdrawal initiative.

But they asked for a further meeting with Mordechai to discuss economic and other problems.

During his visit, Mordechai said the Lebanese Army is capable of enforcing law and order in the south if it receives the order to do so. He stressed that this was one of the foundations of the government's initiative to pull the IDF out of the security zone under the auspices of UN Security Council Resolutions 425 and 426.

"Today the Lebanese government, the army, and Lebanese security forces control all of the country, with the exception of south Lebanon," he said. "It's true that it is under the auspices of Syria and with the backing of Syria, but nevertheless it is a fact that they are capable of doing this."

Mordechai reiterated the seriousness of Israel's proposal, but noted that Syria is the main obstacle to the initiative, even though Israel was not seeking a separate peace accord with Lebanon, nor the withdrawal of Syrian troops from the country.

"We have only just started and the way is still long," he said. "I very much hope, however, that the Lebanese and the Syrians will be persuaded to go along with us."

Mordechai said US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright and UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan had asked the Lebanese government not to reject the proposal.

"I have even examined, indirectly of course, how the Lebanese



Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai (right) and his wife Kochava tour the northern border with local leaders yesterday. Mordechai was asked to add an economic aid component into a prospective retreat plan (Avihu Shapiro/Israel Sun)

themselves see this. In my understanding, this initiative is very much to the liking of the Americans and the Europeans... and to most of the Lebanese, according to what I have heard from European Union Ambassador [Miguel] Moratinos," he said.

He stressed that the initiative was not spontaneous and that the essence of Resolution 425 had been thoroughly examined for

over a year before the proposal was put forward.

Mordechai said that unilateral withdrawal without any security guarantees is potentially dangerous and is not feasible under the present circumstances. He also rejected proposals for the establishment of an international force that would be responsible for ensuring security in south Lebanon, saying that UNIFIL

had so far failed to deliver the

goods. Chief of General Staff Lt.-Gen. Amnon Lipkin Shahak visited the security zone yesterday and met with SLA commanders, senior IDF officers, and Golani Brigade soldiers.

He maintained that the key to a solution to the Lebanon problem is Syria. "The day will come when Israel and Syria will not be in Lebanon. We have not yet reached that day, but there is no doubt that

peace is the best solution.

"Israel is interested in a normal existence with Lebanon, but we will not endanger our security or yours in any arrangement," he told SLA officers.

Shahak who was accompanied by outgoing OC Northern Command Maj.-Gen. Amiram Levine and other senior officers went deep into the security zone to meet with Golani Brigade soldiers at the outpost in Ishiyeh.

IAF hits Hizbullah targets north of zone

By DAVID RUDGE and news agencies

The IAF struck at Hizbullah targets north of the security zone yesterday morning. Reports from Lebanon said the planes fired several missiles, although there were no immediate reports of any casualties.

The IDF Spokesman said that the pilots reported accurate hits and that all the planes

returned safely to base. Lebanese security sources said two planes fired a total of 16 rockets in several runs into the hills of Sujoud in the Iklim al-Toufah region.

Lebanese army and Hizbullah gunmen fired anti-aircraft weapons at the raiding planes, witnesses said. In Nabatyei, a Hizbullah spokesman said the group did not launch any attacks against Israeli or SLA troops yesterday.

PALESTINIAN PRESS REVIEW By MICHAELA

Id al-Adha

Id al-Adha, the Muslim Festival of the Sacrifice which ends the haj, was celebrated for five days last week. "On the holiday of the sacrifice and redemption, anxiety rules us in the face of political and economic circumstances," writes an *Al-Quds* editorial. "Let us hope that the next holiday... will bring with it the realization of the national hopes."

The holiday is an occasion for introspection, an effort to find at home the reasons for the "comprehensive and dangerous crisis," as the Gaza member of parliament, Rawiya Shawa puts it. In an article in *Al-Quds* Shawa concludes that, in face of Israel's "violation of the peace agreements," there is "no point in continuing a peace process which Israel manipulates with propaganda."

Shawa criticizes Israel for speaking about the dangers threatening its security, while the Palestinian people is exposed to violation of basic human rights. He criticizes with the same vigorous manner the Palestinian Authority, which "failed to deal with Israel on a legal basis, which the Israelis cherish." It

failed also in strengthening the social structure to enable a national dialogue with the participation of all political groups, inside and outside Palestine. "The Palestinian Authority is in desperate need of the support of the people," according to Shawa. "Any mistake might push Israel to convince the world that we are not able and not skilled enough to build a state."

Tensions

Commenting on the current tension between the Palestinian government and Hamas activists, after the assassination of Hamas bomb-maker Muhi Sharif, *Al-Quds* calls for tolerance and "national unity" in order not to let anyone divide the Palestinians and "destroy our national dream."

Edward Sa'id in the same *Al-Quds* suggests finding a way to stop the construction of Jewish settlements in the West Bank, "though I am aware that because of the desperate circumstances, workers find no other means to make their living." To ease this difficulty, he calls to establish a fund to support unemployed people. Besides regular demonstrations near Jewish construction

sites, Sa'id suggests rebuilding demolished Palestinian houses as part of civil disobedience.

"The US and Israel have played a role in weakening us, but we cannot ignore our own major role," writes Sa'id. "The greatest challenge is ourselves. As long as we do not face this challenge... we shall end up like the Red Indians in America."

Ross's diplomatic tour of the region was the main Palestinian concern before the holiday. Arafat does not want more "bilateral understandings with an Israeli like Netanyahu who loves election campaigns, while we need a campaign for peace," writes Hassan Batal in *Al-Ayyam*.

Higher education

The Palestinians have prepared a five-year plan to develop Palestinian higher education to meet the needs of nation-building, says Hanan Ashrawi in *Al-Quds*. Interviewed during an Arab conference on higher education in Beirut, Ashrawi said higher education has a major role in developing society, but the campuses must be out of reach to any kind of political interference.

Israeli drug can have major effect on 'negative symptoms' in schizophrenics

By JUDY SEGEL

A team at Jerusalem's Herzog Memorial Hospital claims to be the first in the world to provide concrete evidence that a simple amino acid and a drug used to treat tuberculosis can have a major effect on "negative symptoms" in schizophrenics.

Dr. Uriel Heresco-Levy, head of the women's psychiatric department at the hospital, heads a team that studied 40 hard-core patients given glycine (an amino acid found naturally in food) and d-cycloserine, which was introduced over 30 years ago as an anti-bacterial agent for TB patients.

Given in low doses (0.8 grams per kilo body weight for the first, and a 50 milligram dose for the second), no side effects appeared in the patients. But many of them showed significant improvement in their cognitive defects and "negative symptoms" — which include the inability to make contact with the outside world, lack of interpersonal skills, functional decline and anhedonia (lack of ability to feel pleasure).

Heresco-Levy explained that the two drugs do not affect the hallucinations and delusions that occur in schizophrenia patients, "but these react to other medications. The cognitive defects and 'negative symptoms' in these patients prevent their acclimatization in society, and against these, there have been no effective drugs so far. Although other researchers have tried these substances, our research is the most persuasive proof so far of their efficacy."

Heresco-Levy, who in March received a prize for clinical research from the Israel Association for Biological Psychiatry for his work on the project, said that it points to

new directions in pharmacological treatment of schizophrenia, which affects one percent of the population.

Existing medications work on the dopamine and serotonin neurotransmitters in the brain, but up to 30% of patients don't react well to these medications.

But the glycine and d-cycloserine, he said, work on an additional system of biochemical mediators in the brain called the glutamatergic system, involving the neurotransmitter glutamate.

The Herzog psychiatrist said that decades ago, doctors using d-cycloserine on TB patients saw it affected their low moods, and they

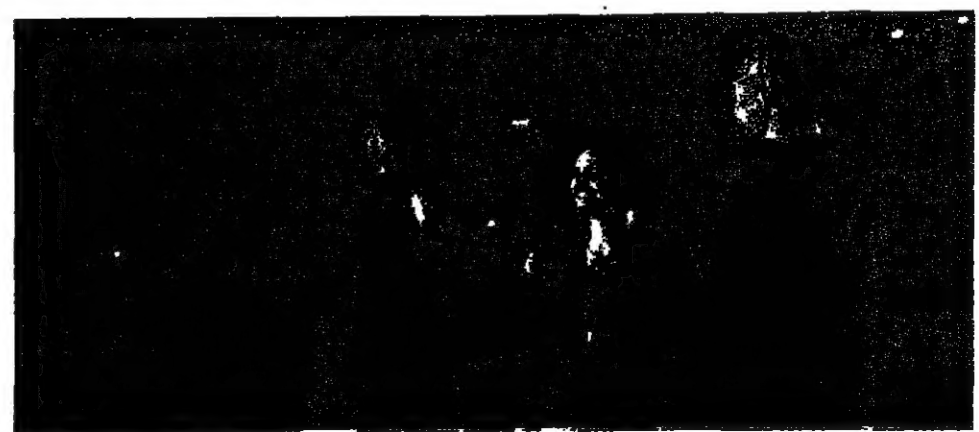
suggested trying it against depression.

But the dosages against TB were 10 to 20 times higher than those used by Heresco-Levy, and they caused such serious side effects that the research was dropped.

Heresco-Levy's team has published their findings in a number of prestigious journals, including the *British Journal of Psychiatry* and the *Psychopharmacology Bulletin*.

They now intend to give the medications to a larger number of patients over a longer period, and in the longer term hope to try them on patients with other psychiatric disorders, including depression and post-traumatic stress disorder.

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Pope prays for Mideast peace

In his Easter message yesterday, Pope John Paul II prayed for the Middle East and said peace in Jerusalem is being put at risk by "dangerous political decisions."

He also urged humanity not to repeat the tragic errors of the 20th century, and warned that the world is being sown by new "seeds of death" as it neared 2000. His plea for humanity to avoid what he called "a sad tomorrow" came in his "Urbi et Orbi" (to the city and the world) message read to more than 150,000 people in St. Peter's Square.

He prayed that his proclamation of peace would be heard by leaders of nations and all people of good will.

The pope said this was true "especially in the Middle East and particularly in Jerusalem, where peace is put at risk by dan-

gerous political decisions."

He said he hoped the spirit of Easter could "give fresh courage to those who have believed and still believe in dialogue as the way to settle national and international tensions."

Ashkenazi Chief Rabbi Yisrael Lau, meanwhile, praised the pope for saying last week that the Jews are not responsible for the death of Jesus and for apologizing for Christian persecution of Jews.

"This is a positive development in the relations between the Catholic Church and the Jewish world," he said.

Jerusalem's Latin Patriarch Michel Sabbah also appealed for an end to violence as hundreds of pilgrims celebrated Easter at the site where Christians believe Jesus was resurrected.

"The land is tired from the

absence of peace," he said in his Easter message in the Church of the Holy Sepulchre. "We say enough violence, enough blood, and enough discrimination between the two peoples."

Some pilgrims said security worries had not deterred them from travelling to Jerusalem.

"We came for the Holy Week. It's very great and unique being here. I feel safe," said Rene Cuendo, 48, from the Philippines, as his wife stood on a bench straining to see Sabbah and dozens of priests lead the congregation in hymn-singing.

As Roman Catholics sang hymns, Coptic Christians began their own singing in another part of the church, as their bishop led them in celebrations marking Orthodox Palm Sunday - a week later than in the Western church.



Priests and worshippers take part in yesterday's Easter procession in the Church of the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem. (AP)

PM's cigars stir political furor

By MICHAEL YUDELMAN

Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu, accompanied by his family and 250 security guards, is scheduled to leave for Eilat on a private vacation today, followed by a trail of political smoke from his cigar habit.

Netanyahu's cigars cost the state a monthly NIS 11,700, *Yedioth Aharonot* reported over the weekend. The Prime Minister's Office orders 100 a month, at NIS 100 each before VAT, for Netanyahu and his assistants, who have also adopted the expensive habit.

The opposition blasted Netanyahu and the Movement for Quality Government is examining the legal aspects of the issue with the intention of taking measures to stop the state's financing his cigars.

Netanyahu's spokesman Shai Bazak said that "it's an item for hosting purposes, which was acceptable practice with former

prime ministers." But former Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir said, "I don't remember such a thing. I don't smoke, there was no demand for it, no budget and no expense." Shamir said, "If someone likes smoking cigars, let them, but at their own expense."

Labor MK Dalia Itzik demanded that Netanyahu return the cigar money, estimated at a quarter of a million shekels since the elections, to the state.

Yedioth quoted a source in the Prime Minister's Office as saying that prime minister Yitzhak Rabin bought his own cigars.

Meanwhile, dozens of security men, trucks filled with equipment and Netanyahu's armored car arrived in Eilat over the weekend to prepare for his visit. Netanyahu and his family will arrive today or tomorrow and stay in a private seaside villa owned by a wealthy businessman living in Germany, who rented it to the prime minister for an estimated \$1,000 a day.

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Karmiel killer commits suicide

A police manhunt for the perpetrator of a triple shooting in Karmiel that left one person dead on Saturday ended early yesterday morning, when the body of Shlomo Levine was found near his car in the Galilee countryside. He had apparently shot himself in the head.

"At first he cocked the pistol, and I didn't really understand what he was doing," Tamara Levine, 28, told reporters from her bed at Nahariya Government Hospital, recounting the events at her Karmiel home the day before. "I couldn't believe that he was

serious, and even when he started shooting me I didn't feel the pain and thought at first it wasn't a real gun, but then I understood it was and it was like I was in a dream."

Her husband, Shlomo, 32, had arrived at her parents' Karmiel flat from Jerusalem, from where she had moved last August. He came to take their young daughter for an outing, and became enraged when his ex-wife refused.

The gruesome sounds of what followed were recorded by Tamara's father on a tape recorder, which he activated before he was shot and fatally wounded by his

former son-in-law.

Using the licensed semi-automatic pistol he carried as part of his work for a security firm in the capital, Shlomo Levine shot his ex-father-in-law, Lazar Mermelstein, 66, in the chest and abdomen; he shot his ex-mother-in-law, 62, in the chest and legs; and Tamara seven times in the chest and torso.

Mermelstein died on the operating table and was buried in Karmiel yesterday afternoon. He had anticipated a confrontation over his granddaughter and planned to record it for use in a

police complaint against his former son-in-law, Tamara said. "He was right," she said. "We expected him to go crazy in the end."

Tamara first filed a police complaint against her then husband in October 1996, when she still lived with him in Jerusalem and he would beat her. He had also threatened to harm her father. She divorced her husband three months ago.

Tamara Levine said that during the events on Saturday, Shlomo at first screamed at her and tried to gouge out one of her eyes. "Apparently he wanted to murder

my father, since he shot him in the stomach. He had threatened in the past to kill my father. He told me that if I wanted to leave our daughter without a father, then I, too, would be left without a father, and that's really what happened."

Before they found Shlomo Levine's body, police were contacted by his brother in Jerusalem, who told them Shlomo had phoned to say he had killed his wife and her parents, and was not prepared to go to prison. He asked his brother to phone their parents in Russia and ask forgiveness on his behalf. (TIM)



Holiday fun

Children on holiday enjoy the hot weather at Jerusalem's Lion's Fountain yesterday

(Brian Hendler)

Report: IDF behaved poorly during Gulf crisis

By ARIEH O'SULLIVAN

The IDF behaved poorly during the February crisis with Iraq, was held by the media, and caused the public to lose confidence in the Home Front Command, according to an internal IDF report.

The report was prepared by the civil defense department of the Home Front Command (HFC) and included a number of research papers drafted by the IDF's behavioral science department.

The report and its conclusions were discussed recently among senior HFC officers.

"Most of the public doesn't feel secure enough from threats and doesn't believe in the protection available to it," said a report prepared by Maj. Sari Marom.

Israel Radio military reporter Carmela Menashe first revealed the report on Thursday.

Called "Conclusions, Lessons, and Recommendations," the report says the public has high confidence in the IDF Spokesman, but only moderate confidence in the Home Front Command.

These findings caused top HFC commanders to question whether this lack of confidence would cause the public not to heed its instructions in the future.

IDF Spokesman Brig.-Gen. Oded Ben-Ami said the report is only a part of the entire IDF self-examination of its behavior during the Iraqi crisis.

"These examinations have not yet been completed," Ben-Ami said. "My father used to say to me that only a fool would show an incomplete job."

The report also recommends researching the behavior of the leadership regarding the anthrax threat. It says the attempt to deny the problem at first, and then to explain it after the media revealed the threat, was too "general, apologetic, and defensive."

But Ben-Ami said the Home Front Command had prepared an information campaign before the Iraqi crisis. It rejected the claim that the IDF was led by the media. "I certainly don't think the army lost (the media war)," he said.

Ben-Ami did admit that the image of the HFC was damaged due to the chaos at the gas-mask distribution points. "Why was there chaos? Because the Home Front Command wasn't prepared? No, I think the citizens, each for his own reasons, did not heed the calls of the Home Front Command for five years to come and exchange their masks," Ben-Ami said.

Thousands participate in hike to preserve Ein Kerem

By LIAT COLLINS

Thousands took advantage of the free guided tours of Jerusalem's Ein Kerem neighborhood and the Jerusalem Forest yesterday to participate in a public awareness campaign aimed at saving the sites from overconstruction.

A development plan calls for residential tower blocks to be built on the slopes of Ein Kerem, which environmentalists and local residents say would ruin its rural nature and harm the forest area. The hike also noted that other housing projects are planned to encroach on the Jerusalem Forest in an area protected by the nation-

al outline plan for forestry.

The tours were organized by the Society for the Protection of Nature in Israel, the Ein Kerem Residents' Council and the Guardians of the Forest group.

"The arrival of thousands of visitors to the site, despite the heat wave, proves that Jerusalemites will not automatically accept the fate of every green spot under the municipality's jurisdiction," said Avraham Shaked, SPNI coordinator for the Jerusalem Hills area.

"Thousands of participants express the unequivocal opinion of the public in favor of preserving rural Ein Kerem and the Jerusalem Forest.

The threat on these areas is just one component in the ongoing harm the Jerusalem Municipality is causing the environment and the quality of life in the city and the surrounding Judean Hills."

Although Mayor Ehud Olmert did not attend, Prof. Ariel Cohen, a deputy mayor who holds the environment portfolio in the city, said during the event that the municipality would not allow Ein Kerem to be harmed.

He noted Ein Kerem is a special site attracting many local and foreign tourists.

Penina Ein Mor, who chairs the residents' council, said it is inconceivable that Ein Kerem, which is

the only Jerusalem neighborhood which preserves its biblical landscape and attracts two million visitors a year, should be harmed by unrestricted building.

The tours included the artists' colony and churches and monasteries. There were also street performances, clowns and musical entertainment.

Visitors were also invited to sign a petition calling for the preservation of the area. Shuttle buses were provided from the Har Herzl parking lot.

If the tower blocks are built, they would become the landscape seen from the Har Herzl and Yad Vashem area.

Edelstein opposes Hebrew-only nursing exam

By JUDY SIEGEL

Immigration and Absorption Minister Yuli Edelstein is demanding that the Health Ministry rescind its new policy requiring immigrant nurses to take their licensing exam in Hebrew.

Although doctors and pharmacists can take their exams in their native tongue, the nurses' option of an English-language exam has been canceled on the grounds that nurses are in close contact with patients and must know Hebrew.

Edelstein, who plans to raise the issue before the Ministerial Committee on the Diaspora, Immigration and Absorption after Pessah, said that canceling the Hebrew-language requirement would give a boost to immigrants looking for work in their profession. He agreed, however, to the idea of holding special courses about professional terms in Hebrew.

The ministry canceled the English exam saying it was because tests in this language were never legal but only a holdover from the

British Mandate.

Acting ministry spokesman Yair Amikam said the decision, taken by director-general Prof. Gabi Barabash, would be brought before Health Minister Yehoshua Matza for possible reconsideration.

Prof. Joseph Schenker, chairman of the state board for medical examination, said that offering the nurses a theoretical exam only in Hebrew was "unfair." He suggested that it be given in their native tongue, along with a separate test

of basic conversational Hebrew for dealing with patients.

Meanwhile, the Maccabi health fund petitioned against the finance and health ministers in the High Court of Justice, demanding that they update the basket of health services and take into consideration the ageing and growth of the population and new technologies and medications.

Such an update was recommended by the National Health Council last October, but never implemented.

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NEWS

in brief

Labor rethinks support for Hod Hasharon mayor

The Labor Party will support Hod Hasharon Mayor Ezra Binyamini and run on a joint list with him in the upcoming municipal elections, even though he participated in a March 1994 demonstration against Yitzhak Rabin, Army Radio reported yesterday. The report led to attacks on the decision by several Labor MKs, and party leader Ehud Barak and secretary-general Ra'anana Cohen said they would reconsider the move. (TIM)

Court stays relocation of Beduin

High Court Justice Dalia Dornier yesterday ordered the civil administration to refrain from taking any action to relocate 22 members of the Jahalin Beduin tribe, which lives near Ma'aleh Adumim, or to demolish their shacks or tents until their petition against the relocation order is heard. They have asked the court to allow them to continue living in the area in the Judean Desert in which they have been living for decades of years by ordering the government to grant them state land for residences and pasture. (TIM)

Tel Aviv Religious Council head resigns

The head of the Tel Aviv Religious Council yesterday announced his resignation from his post and as head of the committee to elect the chief Ashkenazi rabbi of Tel Aviv. In a letter sent to acting Religious Affairs Minister Yitzhak Levy, the council head outlined his complaints which led to his decision to resign. (TIM)

Survey: Seat belts decrease injuries

A survey of traffic accidents during 1997 shows that 32 percent of the drivers involved who did not use seat belts were seriously injured or killed, while only 5 percent of those using seat belts suffered the same degree of injuries. That is the message that dozens of officials of the National Accident Prevention Authority are to be spreading at gas stations and attractions this Pessah. During the campaign, today through Wednesday, drivers and their passengers are to receive booklets and gifts to stress the importance of wearing seat belts. (Haim Shapiro)

Local Authorities: No one consulted us about salary cutback plan

By DAVID HARRIS

A government plan to abolish the rank of deputy mayor and cut mayoral salaries was compiled without consulting the municipalities themselves, according to Union of Local Authorities in Israel Chairman Adi Eldar.

"This is yet another attempt by central government to wrestle power from local government," he said.

A report in yesterday's *Yedioth Aharanot* said that Finance Minister Yashov Neeman and Interior Minister Eli Shalev will after Pessah approve the program, which will save the country an annual NIS 300 million.

The main elements of the proposals are the abolition of the posts of 390 deputy mayors (with only the 12 largest cities being permitted one deputy mayor), a similar regulation being intro-

duced for religious councils, and mayors in smaller cities no longer having their salaries linked to those of government ministers.

If the program is implemented, which is unlikely according to Eldar, any money saved must be plowed into local services.

The union is in principle in favor of reducing the number of deputy mayors but says this must be done carefully and gradually.

However, the organization said it will fight the plan to cut municipal pay. "We are totally opposed to this and will not idly look on while it is approved," said Eldar.

Furthermore, added the union, if the government does want to save money it should take a look at its own expense sheet: the large number of people paid the wage of a deputy director general of a minister, or even the prime minister's cigar bill, quipped Eldar.

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Koreas discuss repatriation, liaison offices

By PAUL ECKERT

BEIJING (Reuters) - Rival North and South Korea agreed after more than two hours of talks yesterday to move to working-level discussions to tackle thorny aid and political issues in detail. South Korea's chief negotiator said.

"We will discuss everything from fertilizer aid to family repatriation to liaison offices at the same time," Jeong Se-hyun, vice-minister of Seoul's Unification Ministry, told a news conference in a plush Beijing hotel.

Negotiators for the two Koreas shifted the talks - the first high-level contact since the death of Pyongyang's "Great Leader" Kim Il-sung in 1994 - to a less formal level to facilitate progress, said Jeong.

"Finally both sides agreed to discuss not only fertilizer but also other issues in parallel," he said after the second session of formal talks concluded.

He said it "took a long time to persuade North Korea to agree" to discuss South Korean demands at the talks, which were proposed by Pyongyang solely to discuss fertilizer aid to the famine-stricken country.

Two members from each of the Korean teams were to gather for working-level meetings at 4 p.m.

In the first round of talks on Saturday, the South said it was willing to donate fertilizer, seeds, pesticides, equipment, and food to rescue millions from starvation in the North. But Seoul demanded "reciprocity" from Pyongyang on reuniting families divided since the Korean War and other exchanges among relatives.

Jeong welcomed North Korea's agreement to move to working-level talks as "a sign of the North Korean willingness to resolve many issues."

But Jeong said he is "neither optimistic nor pessimistic" about the talks and indicated that another formal session would be held on today.

North Korea was tight-lipped after the session, which began with its chief negotiator saying all issues were on the table.

"We'll be talking about all those things inside," chief Pyongyang negotiator Jon Kum-chol told reporters when asked for his reaction to southern proposals.

In Seoul, the *Hankook Ilbo* newspaper quoted Jon as saying at the start of talks on Saturday that fertilizer was the first issue on the agenda.

"The starting point of the current talks is fertilizer aid and it's because of fertilizer that we have been steadily trying to make contact," he said.

Seoul's wish-list for the talks include an exchange of envoys to open a direct channel of communication between the two sides, still technically at war under an armistice accord that ended the 1950-53 conflict.

It also called for the reopening of permanent liaison offices in the border town of Panmunjom that the North abandoned in 1996.

On Saturday, South Korea's chief negotiator made clear to his northern counterparts he would not be able to sell an aid deal to the South Korean public in the current financial crisis unless Pyongyang made concessions.

"Considering the size of the

North Korean request, one of the most important things is to get the approval of the South Korean people. "We expect reciprocity from the North Korean side."

Unconfirmed reports have said the North is seeking as much as 200,000 tons of fertilizer.

North Korea's farmland is exhausted by a combination of disastrous agricultural policies and three consecutive years of floods and drought. The country is surviving largely on international food handouts.

Yesterday, World Food Program (WFP) executive director Catherine Bertini told reporters in Beijing that North Korean officials had said they see no end to the food shortages in the next two to three years.

"The food crisis is not over. It will continue until there are considerably better harvests, until there are considerable improvements in agricultural production," she said.

The South Korean Red Cross last month agreed to ship 50,000 tons of food, most of it grain, to the North on top of 100,000 tons delivered earlier.

But the South Korean economy is in deep distress after being bailed out by the International Monetary Fund.

Millions of Koreans are separated from relatives by razor wire and minefields along the Demilitarized Zone that separates capitalist South and Communist North.

The last high-level meeting between the two Koreas discussed arrangements for a presidential summit, but the death of Kim Il-sung ended the initiative and relations later plunged.



South Korean chief delegate Jeong Se-hyun (right), here seen with his North Korean counterpart Jon Kum-chol in Beijing over the weekend, hailed Pyongyang's agreement to move to working-level talks as a "willingness to resolve many issues."

Divided Australia heads for bitter election

By TERRY FRIEL

CANBERRA (Reuters) - After ending 13 years of Labor rule in a landslide election win in March 1996, John Howard promised Australians a new era of unity.

But two years later, the conservative Australian prime minister leads a community divided as the country heads towards an acrimonious early election this year.

Howard's tough stand on reducing Aboriginal land rights, a crackdown on dockworkers, plans to reform the tax system, and the proposed sale of state telecommunications giant Telstra Corporation have stoked racial, political, and class divisions across a country that prides itself on harmony and equality.

Howard's policies have sparked nationwide protests, a violent confrontation on the docks, and sliding public support for his government.

"This is very divisive really," Australian National University politics lecturer Jim Jupp said yesterday.

"It makes a sort of sour situation. It's certainly not the nation-building, or healing or reconciling... he promised to do."

After watching his popularity slide through 1997, damaged by perceptions as a weak leader, Howard has had an image makeover in 1998. He has taken a headline stand in a bid to avoid becoming the first post-war leader to serve only one term in power.

But it is a risky gambit. Two new polls show the chances of an electoral backlash on at least one heated issue are almost as strong as the likelihood that his no-compromise approach will win votes.

As dockworkers and government-backed stevedoring companies continue their sometimes violent face-off on the docks, polls in the

Bulletin weekly magazine and the *Sunday Herald Sun* newspaper show a slim majority of voters support last week's sacking of 1,400 union dockworkers and their replacement with non-union workers.

Both polls showed that by a slim margin of just a few points, voters opposed the Liberal-National government's support for the stevedoring companies. The *Bulletin* found 28 percent of voters would be less likely to vote for the government because of its action, while just 15 percent would be more likely to vote for it.

The government has thrown its weight behind the companies, because it sees the breaking of the Maritime Union of Australia's monopoly on waterfront labor as a key priority in its strategy to rewrite labor laws, decentralize industrial relations, and reduce the role of unions.

The next election is not due until

mid-1999, but Howard is expected to call a snap poll between July and October.

This is expected after a voter-friendly budget in May but before the full impact of the Asian economic crisis hits the Australian economy, driving up unemployment and slowing growth.

Howard can dissolve both houses of parliament and call an election any time he chooses if parliament's upper house, the Senate, twice rejects government legislation.

The Senate, controlled by the Labor opposition and minor parties, has already done so with three bills - most significantly one which sought to deal with a row between Aborigines and farmers over government pastures leased by the farmers. It would have reduced Aborigines' access rights.

Howard refuses to speculate on election timing, but points out an early election dissolving both cham-

bers - which constitutionally would have to be called by the end of October - is the only way to push through contested reforms. If he wins the election, Howard can use his majority in the larger lower house, the House of Representatives, to force the bills through a joint sitting of both chambers.

The land rights row has pitted country against city, church against state, black against white, and even split families. One of the government's harshest critics is Baptist clergyman Tim Costello.

Treasurer Peter Costello's brother, Howard insists an early poll would not be dominated by race, focusing instead on economic issues.

"I will not seek to exploit issues of race, I will not seek to use racist language, I will not seek to drag issues based on race into a campaign," he declared last week.

But some analysts, pointing to the popularity of race row politician Pauline Hanson and the rise in complaints received by government anti-racism agencies, believe neither the government nor the opposition can prevent racism during the campaign.

Iran moderates: Hold poll on mayor's fate

TEHERAN (Reuters) - Iran's interior minister has called for a referendum to resolve a row over Tehran's jailed mayor Gholamhossein Karbaschi and announced the creation of a center for his defense, a newspaper said yesterday.

"If the case of the mayor and the municipality is a national issue, why is a poll not conducted to learn of the peoples' views? A referendum must be held," Abdollah Nouri was quoted as saying by the *Iran Daily*.

Nouri would also open the Interior Ministry's doors to the public to visit the newly created "Centre for Karbaschi's Defense," which was due to open yesterday, the newspaper said.

The center would highlight the mayor's works over the past eight years, Nouri told Iran's official news agency IRNA.

Nouri's moves were the latest sign of support for Karbaschi, a close ally of President

Mohammad Khatami, whose arrest has brought into the open a clash between conservatives and moderates brewing since Khatami's election last year.

Karbaschi is charged by the conservative-led judiciary with embezzlement, misappropriation of funds, and mismanagement.

Supporters of the mayor, who is considered a moderate, reject the detention as politically motivated. The judiciary denies the charge, pointing to the cases of several of Karbaschi's top aides convicted on similar charges.

But Nouri's actions also spawned criticism in the conservative press and accusations that the minister was biased.

The hard-line daily *Jonhuri Eslami* accused Nouri of being biased for setting up the center, visiting the mayor's family, and allowing a pro-Khatami Islamic student group to hold a rally in support of the mayor at Tehran University on Tuesday.

Earthquake felt from Venice to Vienna

VENICE, Italy (AP) - A strong earthquake yesterday, centered in the mountains of western Slovenia, set Venice rolling and tall buildings swaying in Vienna and toppled chimneys in Slovenian towns. One person was reported injured in Slovenia.

Italy's National Geophysics Institute put the magnitude at 5.5 and the epicenter in Triglav, Slovenia, a peak popular with mountain climbers, about 25 kilometers from the Italian-Slovenian border.

STA, the Slovenian state news agency, said a few chimneys crumbled in Kobarida, 15 km. from the Italian border. Electricity lines were reported down there.

Venice, jammed with Easter tourists, rocked for

some 15 seconds shortly before 1 p.m., but no damage was reported there.

The quake was felt throughout much of Austria and Croatia, and Hungary's MTI news agency said it was also felt in the country's Zalaegerszeg region, south-east of Budapest.

In 1976, a powerful quake ripped through the Friuli-Venezia Giulia region in northeast Italy, killing nearly 1,000 people.

Yesterday's quake was also sharply felt across much of north and central Italy, as people in Milan and Bologna and other cities jammed switchboards of fire departments with calls inquiring about the tremor.

Hong Kong poll off to a bumpy start

By PETER HUMPHREY

HONG KONG (Reuters) - The first legislative election campaign since British rule is off to a bumpy start as unpopular parties scramble for back-door seats and pro-democracy groups attack Hong Kong's election system as undemocratic.

Candidates began to register last week for polls climaxing on May 24, the first since Hong Kong became an autonomous part of China last July after 156 years of British colonial rule.

Only 20 of the 60 seats are to be elected democratically by the general public. The rest are indirectly elected by a narrow votership formed by elite professionals and business sectors.

As a rubber stamp interim legislature disbanded, politicians launched campaigns about colorful open top buses last week, and pro-democracy groups vilified the lack of democracy.

Opinion polls show democrats will win 65 percent to 70 percent of seats in the one-third of the poll that is to be democratic. But they will form a powerless minority in the Legislative Council, facing a majority bloc of pro-Beijing and pro-business forces who gain entry mainly through the indirect elections.

Although Beijing's communist government has no overt hand in

managing the ballot, the rules are based on its guidance and critics call it an "election with Chinese characteristics."

"To call it fair damages both the executive and civil servants who try to defend the indefensible," said political expert Michael DeGolyer of the Hong Kong Baptist University. "To argue each has a slice, and this is a 'fair' division, merely questions the intelligence and integrity of the adult."

Sensing they will be thumped in the democratic poll, the pro-Beijing Progressive Alliance on Saturday quit that section to focus on the indirect elections. "If we know we are going to lose, why don't we put all our efforts into the seats we believe we can win," said party leader Ambrose Lau.

The Liberal Party has been making similar maneuvers. The first polls in decolonized territories usually spark a surge of enthusiasm from electors proud of their independence.

But in Hong Kong, surveys have shown immense disillusionment over the dilution of democracy, and confusion and ignorance about the new rules.

Many people did not know where they were supposed to vote. "I was holding a folder yesterday and there were still people asking me which constituencies

they belong to," said candidate Emily Lau of the pro-democracy Frontier group.

Even the elite first stage of an indirect committee election that will fill 10 seats produced only a 23 percent turnout.

Forecasts say 35 percent may vote in the democratic part on May 24, when votes will be cast on party lists in geographical areas in a proportional representation system.

Election architect Constitutional Affairs Secretary Michael Suen admitted shortcomings in a list system that forces people to pick a party rather than an individual candidate, and he said this might be reviewed next time around, in the 2000 election.

But he ruled out on Saturday any return to a British-style first-past-the-post one-man-one-vote method. He made it clear the present system was designed to keep down the Democratic Party of lawyer Martin Lee, the largest force in the elected legislature that was disbanded when China took over last July 1 in favor of an unelected interim body.

"In 1995 some members of the Democratic Party only won by a hundred or a thousand votes. So nearly half of the voters did not support them and those people would not have anyone to represent them," Suen said.

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מסעדת תל אביב

The perils of Pavarotti

By JUSTIN DAVIDSON

Luciano Pavarotti has been singing the role of Nemorino, the lovelorn young bumpkin in Donizetti's *L'elisir d'amore*, for over 30 years. But it's probably safe to say that his recent performances at the Metropolitan Opera will be his last in that role.

The 62-year-old tenor, who still draws tens of thousands to hear him perform in stadiums and commands TV audiences of millions, is scheduled to sing Cavaradossi in just performances of Puccini's *Tosca* at the Met in the fall. The gala concert at the end of that run, commemorating the 30th anniversary of his Met debut, could double as a farewell from the opera stage.

Pavarotti has a few more Three Tenors concerts in his appointment book, but as for what happens after that, manager Herbert Breslin said, "We'll see. The planning is very loose for now."

"I think that I'll have to stop sooner or later," Pavarotti said, as if he had some other option. "But if I stop, the only reason will be a physical failing of some kind."

He declined to elaborate, but over the past decade his weight, which hovers around 350 pounds, has all but crippled him, forcing the tenor to sing impassioned love scenes from the comfort of a stool and conduct putative sword fights behind a screen of chorus members.

To his old list of afflictions — allergy to stage dust, flu, laryngitis, fatigue, arthritis and sciatica — Pavarotti recently added another. In the middle of a benefit fund concert at the Met, he suffered a dizzy spell, scaring himself enough to go home at intermission and cancel two performances of *Elisir* so he could rest.

Still, he is fond of citing the example of his father, a retired baker in the Italian town of Modena who, at 86, still sings in church every week with the voice, according to the son, of a much, much younger man. The implication is clear.

Lucianissimo's fantasy is to keep

impersonating operatic youths as long as he can still hobble into the spotlight.

Critics, though, tend not to believe that he has either the stamina or the voice to get through many more operatic performances.

At the beginning, his reviews were packed with praise for the open, brassy beauty of his



voice, the voltage that cycled through his singing, for making opera sound spontaneous and exuberant. But by the early 1980s he had become a mass-media phenomenon, and much of the writing about him turned sour.

In 1978, with a concert that was broadcast to 12 million viewers from the Met, he became the first classical singer to give a full recital on live TV. He began to sing, not only in concert halls, but also in stadiums, like a genuine rock star. The crowds were enthralled. The critics were not.

"When I've experienced him at events like the Three Tenors' concerts, he's not half the artist he is when he sings opera," said Peter Davis, the *New York Magazine* critic. "He doesn't seem to care anymore. Every time he appears, the opera becomes of secondary interest and it's the Luciano Pavarotti Show."

Pavarotti hears only noxious snobbery in such criticism. "To say that music is only for the elite, for refined minds, shocks me," he said. "My barber in

Modena was the greatest connoisseur of opera I've ever known. If you can serve 500,000 people, as we did in Central Park, where they all came for free and went away feeling good, then, you've only done a good deed."

And if money flows from such good deeds, well, much of it goes to stave off other hungers than his. "We've set up a music center in Bosnia, and our next benefit concert is to raise money for a village of orphans in Liberia," he said, pointing to a plaque he had received from the United Nations, designating him honorary Ambassador for Peace.

"Tell me, what is there for me to regret?"

(Newsday)

NEWS

of the muse

George Michael comes out

In his first public comments since he was arrested on charges of committing a lewd act in a public bathroom, George Michael told CNN "I won't even say it's the first time it's happened. I put myself in an extremely stupid and vulnerable position," the British pop singer said in an interview aired Friday night.

Michael, 34, was alone in the restroom at a Beverly Hills park Tuesday evening when an undercover officer saw him allegedly commit the unspecified act, police said.

He also apologized to his fans. "I just want to let them know that I'm OK," Michael said, adding, "I wanted to let them know that this is not going to finish me off."

Also in the interview, Michael described his sexuality as "ambiguous." "I want to say that I have no problem with people knowing that I'm in a relationship with a man right now. I have not been in a relationship with a woman for almost 10 years."

The singer was booked for investigation of misdemeanor lewd conduct and released after posting \$500 bail. He is scheduled to be arraigned on May 5. Prosecutors are to decide by next week whether to file charges. At most, Michael could be charged with one count of lewd conduct and one count of indecent exposure, authorities said. They are both misdemeanors and each carry a maximum punishment of six months in jail and a \$1,000 fine. (AP)

Suzanne Farrell to sponsor dance academy

Former prima ballerina Suzanne Farrell will be the sponsor of the new Suzanne Dellal Dance Academy due to open "in the near future." She arrived on Erev Pessah for a 10-day visit as the Center's guest and to meet with local dancers and personalities.

Critics have described Farrell as one of the greatest lyrical ballerinas of the century. She joined the New York City Ballet at 16 and became its prima ballerina before she was 20. Arthritis forced her retirement from the stage in 1989. Choreographer Georges Balanchine called her his "muse" and created scores of ballets for her. Today Farrell travels the world as rehearsal director for the Balanchine Foundation and is also the artistic director of the Fort Worth Ballet in Texas. The planned academy will have academic accreditation and will award a bachelor's degree to its graduates. (Helen Kaye)

Batsheva Dance wins prize in Japan

BD's Japanese tour last September gained the company the Show of the Year award from a poll of critics, journalists, dance academics and others in Japan's prestigious *Dance Magazine*. BD took a program of dances by artistic director Ohad Naharin, including *Anaphase*, *Zina*, and *Arbos* to Tokyo, Nagoya, Osaka and Kyoto. (Helen Kaye)

Gracias to Enrico Macias

French warbler Enrico Macias and his ensemble are lending their talents to a special Independence Day/Jubilee benefit gala at the Tel Aviv Performing Arts Center on April 29. Macias was recently named a roving peace ambassador by UN Secretary General Kofi Annan. Macias is reported to have asked Annan to the concert, to which the diplomat replied "I'm in the area," and then reportedly added "though that wouldn't be good news." Macias is also appearing at the Israel Festival on May 27 in a tribute to Algerian Jewish troubadour Raymond Leyris. Proceeds from the evening will help fund summer activities on the TAPAC plaza. (Helen Kaye)

Comedy in Beersheba

Delicious comedienne Rama Messinger plays gay divorcee Michele, the lead in a new farce at the Beersheba theater. *Key for Two* is the story of what happens when Michele's two lovers meet. Each doesn't know of the other's existence, and matters aren't helped a bit by the arrival of Michele's best friend, Ann (Sarit Vaino-Elad). The translator and director of this British comedy is Ami Dayan. (Helen Kaye)

Cameri play takes to the road

Cameri veteran Yossi Carmon plays the title role in a new drama *The Actor*, written and directed by Hillel Minelapunk. It tells the story of Natan Mershlak, the leader of an itinerant theater in 18th-century Poland who performs his Purim spiel in a small town despite the local rabbi's ban. Deprived of his player's license, he and his little band set out with their cart. Their journey is fraught with dangers but the troubles they encounter, and the joys, are also their own. It opens tonight at ZOA house in Tel Aviv. (Helen Kaye)

Giving peace a chance in N. Ireland

Movie Review



By Adina Hoffman

Although it's set in Belfast around the time of the IRA cease-fire and centers on a prize fighter just released from prison, *The Boxer* is neither propagandistic nor overly symbolic. The movie is, in other words, as notable for what it isn't as for what it is.

So many films about "The Troubles" in Northern Ireland are reduced to sloganeering by their creators' eagerness to take sides, and so many films about this particular sport use the blows exchanged in the boxing ring as a metaphor for something else, "grander" beyond the gym, the movie's modest task comes as a surprise. "It's just boxing," insists Danny, the title character, and he seems to speak for the filmmakers as well, or for their greatest wish — that simple-seeming things like sports, peace and love could be defused, relieved of the weighty symbolic implications that life (and art) in a war-zone bring.

The main characters, former childhood sweethearts, Danny (Daniel Day-Lewis) and Maggie (Emily Watson), seem bound by a fairly ordinary romantic attraction — but even their passion, renewed after 14 years apart, grows gnarled when set against this convoluted

landscape. Her father (Brian Cox) is an IRA tough, and her husband is in jail. As a prisoner's wife and fighter's daughter, she's bound by an elaborate set of codes and so can't just pick up with an old flame. Danny, for his part, has turned his back on the IRA ideology that put him behind bars in the first place, a fact which hardly endears him to the local posse, most of whose members refuse to consider the prospect of peace — he returns to the neighborhood and immediately sets up a gym for the

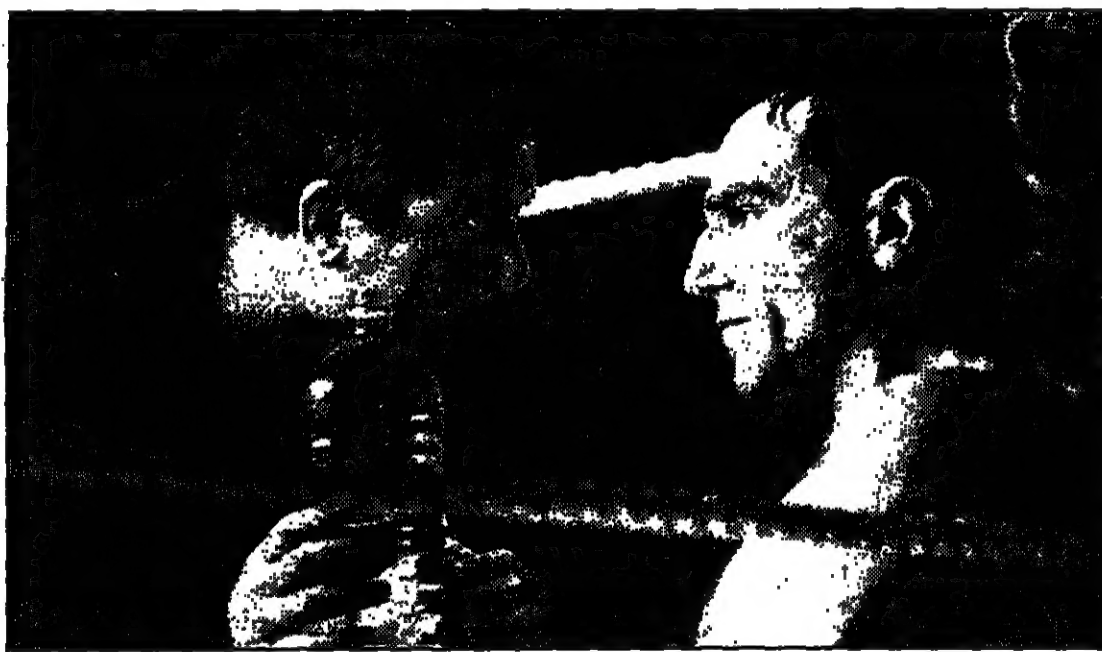
THE BOXER

Directed by Jim Sheridan. Written by Sheridan and Terry George. Hebrew title: *Ha'mingot*, 115 minutes. English dialogue, Hebrew subtitles. Parental guidance very strongly advised.

With Daniel Day-Lewis, Emily Watson, Brian Cox, Ken Stott and Gerard McSorley

local kids, both Catholic and Protestant — a threat to their existence.

Director Jim Sheridan and his co-writer Terry George are hardly newcomers to this subject. Sheridan's *In the Name of the Father* and George's *Some Mother's Son* tackled similar questions (albeit with a more emphatic sense of right and wrong), of basically disinterested people caught up in the swirl of bloody Irish events. In both cases, circumstance demands that these characters take a stance and become politicized: in Sheridan's film, Gerry Conlon (also played by Day-Lewis) is falsely accused of a deadly bombing, and finds himself forced to fight his way out of jail for



Danny Flynn (Daniel Day-Lewis) reunites with former trainer Ike Weir (Ken Stott) in 'The Boxer.'

a crime he did not commit, and in George's movie, Helen Mirren plays an apolitical everywoman whose son joins the hunger strike in Maze prison, a decision that leaves her little choice but to become involved.

For all its thematic similarity, though, *The Boxer* is a different sort of film from both of these. It's a wearier, more searching attempt to reckon with the idea of Northern Ireland at tentative peace, and the conclusions we may draw from it are more ambiguous. Both the lead actors give serious, subtle performances and the intelligence of the scriptwriters is clear throughout the restrained proceedings.

That said, I must confess that *The Boxer* left me strangely unen-

thusled. While the film certainly manages to avoid the grosser pitfalls of other films on the same topic, there's something wan about Sheridan's approach on its own terms. Aside from a few gripping boxing scenes, his work takes place mainly at a theoretical level, and lacks a potent dramatic pulse (the biting wit of his earlier films is also absent here). We never really understand what motivates Danny Flynn: he remains a cipher, and though the decision by Sheridan and George to leave out certain details of his political and personal past is understandable — it seems they're trying to avoid a kind of schmalzy Hollywood literalism — other omissions are more problematic, and make it hard to feel

strongly for the character. Why, we wonder, did Danny decide to abandon his political beliefs? Has he really come back because of Maggie, or is there some other reason? Where is his family? At least half a dozen times in the course of the film, people ask him: "What do you mean? What do you want? What are you trying to prove?" We wonder as well. There's something vague about him, and at times the script seems foggy than it is nuanced. (We may also wonder about Maggie's off-screen husband, who hardly exists as a believable force in her life.) It's as if the scriptwriters had cut their characters free of the usual symbolic moorings, but hadn't figured out what to do with them next.

A bass baritone for all 'Seasons'

By MICHAEL AJZENSTADT

Thomas Quasthoff considers himself a very lucky, happy and good-humored man. At 38, the German bass baritone, who is a frequent visitor to local concert stages, is at the pinnacle of his career. He sings with leading orchestras and musicians all over the world and records a huge number of works.

Quasthoff's repertoire is quite varied, yet his concerts — in Israel at least — have always centered around the Baroque repertoire of Bach, Haydn and their contemporaries.

However, he says, "I have sung music by contemporary composers, and next year I premiere a new work by Penderecki. As long as the music is good for the voice, then I would love to perform it."

That said, Quasthoff argues that "a lot of the music written today is not always well suited to the voice. Above that, I miss the fun and joy in the music. I mean, there is no real sense of humor in the music of this time. I know we live in grave times and there is despair and sadness around, but music must bring hope and something positive."

Quasthoff has to limit his performance time because he also teach-

es singing at the university of Detmold, Germany. What he tries to teach his students, above basic technique and style, is to progress slowly and cautiously. "Some young singers go too fast; they are after a quick career and a lot of money. But they must realize that the most important thing is to take care of what you have, of your voice. I want to sing as well as I do now in 25 years," he says.

Quasthoff entered the classical singing world quite late in life. "When you live with a handicap, you need a job with security, so I worked for six years in a bank. I also studied law but it was too dry for me and I soon realized that I would make a very bad lawyer."

After the ARD Competition in Munich in 1988, Quasthoff realized that he could probably make a living with his voice as well. He does not like to talk too much about his physical condition. He was born in 1959, one of the first babies who suffered from the fact that their mothers took sleeping pills which comprised material that affected the genes. Quasthoff is a very short man who looks out of proportion. For this reason, in concert he has to sing standing on a relatively high stool.

"I take this as a fact and would

like to be considered as a singer who is handicapped and not as a handicapped person who also sings. There is a huge difference."

Musically speaking, the handicap does not really affect Quasthoff's career, aside from the fact that he cannot perform opera on stage.

But he is about to embark on recording opera on a regular basis. "I cannot give you all the details at the moment, but there are several opera recordings in the works." In spite of his numerous discs, Quasthoff says, "I have a problem with recordings; I much prefer the live concert experience."

Quasthoff is currently in Israel singing in Haydn's *The Seasons* with the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra (today through Wednesday at the Mann Auditorium in Tel Aviv at 8:30 p.m.), an opus which he says is a much more developed work than Haydn's more popular *The Creation*.

"The way Haydn imitates nature in the music is very characteristic of him. It's a much more developed work than *The Creation*, but I prefer *The Creation* because *The Seasons* is a little long, although the music I sing is very beautiful and full of humor."

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Land of milk and honey

As the intermediate days of the Pessah holiday season started yesterday, people headed out into nature to try to leave city stress behind them and find some cool shade from the relentless heat wave. Increasingly, however, the city itself is encroaching more and more on what was once open landscape and recreational areas.

At the end of almost any road you take, you will find more buildings and construction — be it along the sea shore in Haifa, the sand dunes of Ashdod, the forests near Jerusalem, or the fertile land of the Sharon, where housing projects have grown up where once orange groves flourished.

The Society for the Protection of Nature in Israel kicked off the Pessah vacation yesterday with free tours of the Jerusalem Forest and Ein Kerem as part of its struggle to preserve this historic and culturally valuable area.

Visitors today can easily see how Ein Kerem looked years ago. Visitors in a few years might need much more imagination to help them see the charm. The area is now threatened by a plan to build apartment blocks on the surrounding slopes. The neighborhood — the birthplace of John the Baptist — is a world-class attraction for Christian pilgrims, and its beauty is enjoyed by tourists of all denominations. Outline Plan MI 200 designates a large part of the area as a national park, while the Jerusalem Forest is meant to be protected by the Outline Plan for Forestation. But commercial interests seem to be taking precedence over human and environmental interests, often for the worse.

The problem is not an isolated one. North of the Negev desert, the country is becoming densely populated. Today, the population stands at some 5.6 million. By the year 2020, projections are that it could reach some eight million. But while population growth is a blessing, particularly given Israel's uniqueness, it requires a new approach to planning the physical development of the country. Without adopting an approach to construction that conserves land resources, by the year 2020, some 60 percent of the land north of Beersheba and in the center of the country might be covered with concrete and there may be no open lands left to enjoy on holidays.

The question this Pessah is whether we can meet the important challenges of the country's continued growth, economic development, and immigrant absorption without turning it into a mass of urban sprawl. Will the land of milk and honey turn into a land of cement and asphalt, or will there be some "green lungs" with which to

breathe, some natural landscape of biblical beauty left for the country's citizens and visitors?

The answer is: it can be done, but it needs far-sighted and comprehensive planning. We need and deserve a well thought out, well enforced policy of sustainable development.

Last week's decision by an interministerial committee to adopt the proposal by National Infrastructure Minister Ariel Sharon to establish six new communities along the Green Line in the area of Lachish and Yotvata does not bode well. The suggestion had been previously rejected by the National Planning and Construction Council as conflicting with national and regional outline plans. The original Lachish settlements were created to fill in the map between the West Bank and Gaza Strip and curb rampant infiltration from both. The plan for the new communities is much the same, with the new villages theoretically protecting the older settlements. While no one can deny the importance of safeguarding Lachish and Yotvata residents, it is questionable whether plowing up some of the area's most beautiful scenery to build new villages is the only solution to the region's security problems.

The Interior Ministry, meanwhile, is keen on reviving the Expedited Building Permits Emergency Regulations, which aims at facilitating construction by cutting out parts of the regular planning process and reducing the period in which objections by local residents can be heard. This draconian measure may not even speed up the construction process, however, for the bottleneck usually lies in bureaucracy, not with local objections. It simply denies people a voice.

Homes must be built, but they need not all include a private garden on previously open land. Existing neighborhoods, with existing infrastructure, can be improved on. While more road-building is inevitable, this does not negate the necessity of constructing a decent rail system to complement the road network. Israel Railways' decision last week to buy the so-called tilting trains, which dramatically reduce journey times, is a welcome move. The new technology can reduce travel time on the Jerusalem-Tel Aviv and Beersheba-Tel Aviv lines by half, finally producing an incentive for people to leave their cars at home for an intercity commute.

In this jubilee year, one question we must ask this Pessah is not only how we see the country today, but what will the country be like in another 50 years and for generations to come.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

ATTRACTIVE POLITICS

Sir, — Although I too am not an advocate of models or cosmetics, I am nonetheless surprised at the ambivalence of the feminist establishment to the recently announced Knesset candidacy of Pinna Rosenbloom.

How perverse that feminists think a woman who wishes to break the stereotype of the "dumb blond," is not afraid to speak her mind and do the unconventional, has proven business and executive

ability, reflects down-to-earth consensual values and an interest in public service, and refuses to do politics the male-dominated way, should be disqualified because her looks and style are not politically correct.

Why should military men be the only public figures to parachute into political office? In these anti-elitist times Ms. Rosenbloom deserves a chance too. Maybe her presence will help improve

Knesset attendance and the language of debate. And maybe the haredi rabbis will forbid their Knesset representatives from sitting in the same room with her (allowing the rest of us to save some swollen subsidies...). At least she will make politics more attractive — and the *Hatzufim* even funnier.

JUDITH HOLLANDER
Jerusalem.

JEWISH SUGGESTION

Sir, — To all those who propose the release of dangerous criminals from Israeli jails and to those who are planning gala celebrations costing who-knows-how-many millions in the name of celebrating the State of Israel's Jubilee, I have a more rational and far more Jewish suggestion.

Why don't we cancel any and all debts for all of our citizens whose family incomes are less than NIS 7,000 per month? In that way we can fulfill the biblical commandment to set all slaves free in the Jubilee year.

DOREEN DOTAN

JOY TO READ

Sir, — Column One is a joy to read.
Thomas O'Dwyer is tops!

AMI BARAVES
Tel Aviv.

DEBBIE ELIAHU
Beersheba.

FROM OUR ARCHIVES

65 years ago: On April 13, 1933, The Palestine Post reported from Berlin that the Prussian Minister of Justice issued instructions that the current exclusion of Jewish lawyers from German courts must be fully maintained. Herr Weiner, a Jewish lawyer of Chemnitz, had been found murdered after having been kidnapped by the Nazis.

50 years ago: On April 13, 1948, The Palestine Post reported that Hagana reinforced patrols had plunged into isolation three Arab villages from which Iraqis and Syrians — a motley of foreign mercenaries — had tried for a week to overrun the Mishmar Ha'Emek settlement.

The Jerusalem Post reported that Prime Minister Golda Meir, Defence Minister Moshe Dayan and Minister-without-Portfolio Israel Galili jointly reaffirmed the Labor Party's, coming out against annexation, but concurring that there can be no withdrawal before peace.

Alexander Zivelli

OPINION

Barak's gambit

YOSEF GOELL

A former political science colleague of mine, Prof. Ze'ev Sternhal of the Hebrew University, with many of whose positions I disagree, wrote in last Friday's *Ha'aretz* a trenchant commentary on recent Israeli political developments as seen from Holland, where he is currently doing research: "A society whose citizens are permitted to export their property but are forbidden by law from importing meat in accordance with their personal tastes is a

mination to privatize the national air carrier El Al and the stymieing of all serious efforts at such privatization by insisting that El Al continue to refrain from flying on Shabbat and Jewish holidays. It is estimated that that decision has cost El Al about \$50 million annually in lost revenues over the past 15 years, a luxury that a religiously-dominated coalition might insist on, but that no private investor would countenance. Ideologues like Sternhal are cor-

Barak's call to conscript haredim means writing off haredi support for Labor

society which has transformed the concept of liberty into a purely economic one. By us, liberty is not understood in terms of individual rights or the liberation of the individual from superstition, but in terms of untrammelled personal control over one's own property."

Sternhal was referring to the recent passage in the Knesset of the extension of the amendment to the Basic Law: Freedom of Occupation, which would forbid the importation of non-kosher meat (not only pork); and the impending liberalization of the shekel, which would turn it into a freely traded currency on international markets, and free individual Israelis to wheel and deal there.

Any truly committed ideologue of the Left or of the libertarian Right would indeed find those two developments and their respective rationales profoundly anomalous. The freeing of the shekel is being predicated on the need to minimize the government's involvement in as many aspects of life as possible. But if one believes in that principle with any degree of consistency, what could be more reprehensible than the government's insistence on dictating what we put and refrain from putting onto our plates, daily?

One could add another such anomaly: the government's deter-

rect in pointing their fingers at such glaring inconsistencies and at the hypocrites of the political system; they are wrong in expecting ideological consistency from working politicians. They are doubly wrong in pointing their fingers exclusively at the Right and Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

The decision to shut down El Al on Shabbat was adopted in the early 1980s under the first Begin coalition government, but it was not rescinded under the Rabin government of the early 1990s. The bill forbidding the importation of cheap non-kosher meat merely extended a law passed under Rabin's leadership. Ironically, the need for that anti-constitutional law was urgent at that time because Rabin had agreed to the privatization of meat imports.

Netanyahu's concessions to his religious putters are primarily a function of his profound belief that his political future, and chances for a second term, hinge more on forging and maintaining a close alliance with the haredi parties who won the last election for him, than on propitiating his own Likud.

The decisions to limit liberalization to areas that will primarily benefit Israel's New Rich — such as the freeing of the shekel and Finance Minister Yassov Neeman's planned tax reforms —

Are they ready for peace?

EFRAIM INBAR

Even though it quickly became clear that Israeli agents were not involved in the killing of Hamas terrorist Mubir Sharif last month, the state of alert declared by Israeli security forces to prevent a terrorist attack on Israeli civilians was not cancelled.

The Hamas leaders in the areas controlled by the Palestinian Authority continue to promise revenge, i.e. Israeli casualties.

The main question hovering in the air is not whether they will be successful and more Israelis will pay with their lives to fulfill the chimera of several blood-thirsty radical Islamists.

At stake is not whether Israel can live in the shadow of terrorism. Israel has survived terrorist attacks in the past. It can and should pay the costly price of being subject to terrorist attacks if this leads to an improvement of Israel's overall strategic situation and to better relations with our neighbors.

Palestinian terrorism has always been a strategic nuisance and it is not a serious security challenge to Israel. What is at stake is whether the Palestinians in the territories are really ready for peace with Israel.

Since Oslo, Palestinian terrorism has become a litmus test for our relations with the Palestinians, our closest neighbors.

Despite their solemn promises of September 1993, Yasser Arafat and the PA leadership have failed to distance themselves unequivocally from acts of violence against Israel.

The Hamas terrorist infrastructure has remained intact. The orga-

nization's weapons were not confiscated; there is only a ban on displaying them in public. Hamas still has an undisputed recruitment apparatus and training bases, as well as a network of workshops to produce explosives and bombs of various kinds.

The inflammatory calls for armed Jihad against the Jewish state never ceased. Moreover, PA officials participate in the funerals of terrorists and even eulogize them. The PA tolerates within the territory under its jurisdiction the existence of armed militias, Hamas and Islamic Jihad, violently opposed to the peace process and even to the existence of the State of Israel.

THE PA's friends in Israel and abroad constantly tell us that we must show understanding for Arafat's domestic constraints and/or weakness. Yet this is precisely why we must also question Arafat's suitability as a partner in a peace process: The reluctance to enter into an armed struggle against fellow Palestinians — and possibly a civil war — is natural. The fear that he would lose popularity by trying to eradicate the terrorist infrastruc-

ture of Hamas and Islamic Jihad is also understandable.

What is not reasonable is to expect Israel to tolerate the emergence of a Palestinian entity next to it which resembles a militia-torn Lebanon.

Arafat has not yet passed the test of any modern state — the establishment of a political entity which has a full monopoly over the bodies

If Arafat is too weak to fight against Islamic extremism, he cannot demand that Israel treat him like a head of state

that use force. If Arafat is too weak to fight against Islamic extremism like Egypt's President Hosni Mubarak or Jordan's King Hussein, he cannot demand that Israel treat him like a head of a centralized state which can negotiate peace treaties. If he cannot deliver what he promises because he is weak or inept at ruling unruly Palestinians, he is not an appropriate partner for making agreements with us.

Unfortunately for the Palestinians, as well as for the Israelis, it seems doubtful whether Palestinian society has produced a leadership that can say openly to its people that it favors peace and opposes violence against Israel — and would vigorously implement this policy.

The alternative explanation of Arafat's inaction against the terror-

ist cells of Hamas and the Islamic Jihad is even more disturbing: Some experts claim that he is not weak, because he has enough muscle at his disposal (approximately 40,000 fighters), as well as political capital to deal with the terrorist infrastructure, but he occasionally lacks the will to do so.

Bleeding Israel through terror is part of his negotiating tactic, just as Syrian President Hafez Assad is using the Hizbullah in Lebanon. But Assad never sent a letter to Rabin promising to stop the violence against Israelis and to disarm the militias.

We should not expect all promises to be kept, but we should make sure that if commitments on vital matters to Israel are violated, they are corrected to our satisfaction, or their violators are punished.

Otherwise, there is no reason to stick to agreements signed with Israel. Additional concessions to an Arafat who has not yet internalized this simple matter is a recipe for more violations.

Disarming hostile militias on our border is an Israeli vital interest and a test of the intentions and capabilities of the emerging Palestinian entity. If the PA is unable or unwilling to deal with those who violently try to derail the peace process, the negotiations are doomed to failure. We may have no choice but to wait for the emergence of a new Palestinian leadership — one committed to coexistence with Israel and ready to suppress those Palestinians intent on destroying the Jewish state.

Don't mend it - end it

CHARLES KRAUTHAMMER

ident's power, they argued, with Congress holding the ultimate power of impeachment. Beware this rogue fourth branch of government, they warned, with few checks, near unlimited authority and every incentive to carry out an unrelenting assault on the executive.

Democrats, until recently, remained unpersuaded. They were enjoying too much the spectacle of

little sympathy for Walsh's victims. Now all of a sudden, with the Clinton administration under investigation for a list of charges staggering in its length and breadth — from Whitewater to campaign finances, from Indian casino deals to witness tampering — the Democrats are complaining that prosecution has turned to persecution, that policy differences are being criminalized.

Partisan hypocrisy should not blind Americans to the truth: Independent counsels are an affront to the constitutional system

people like Ed Meese, Caspar Weinberger, Robert McFarlane and John Poindexter being harassed and/or brought low by a free-lancing nemesis. Indeed, when Lawrence Walsh spent \$47 million over seven years playing Ahab to the Reagan boys of Iran-contra, he was held as something of a hero by the people now surrounding Bill Clinton.

Republicans screamed that Democrats were criminalizing policy differences. Democrats scoffed that they were merely enforcing the law.

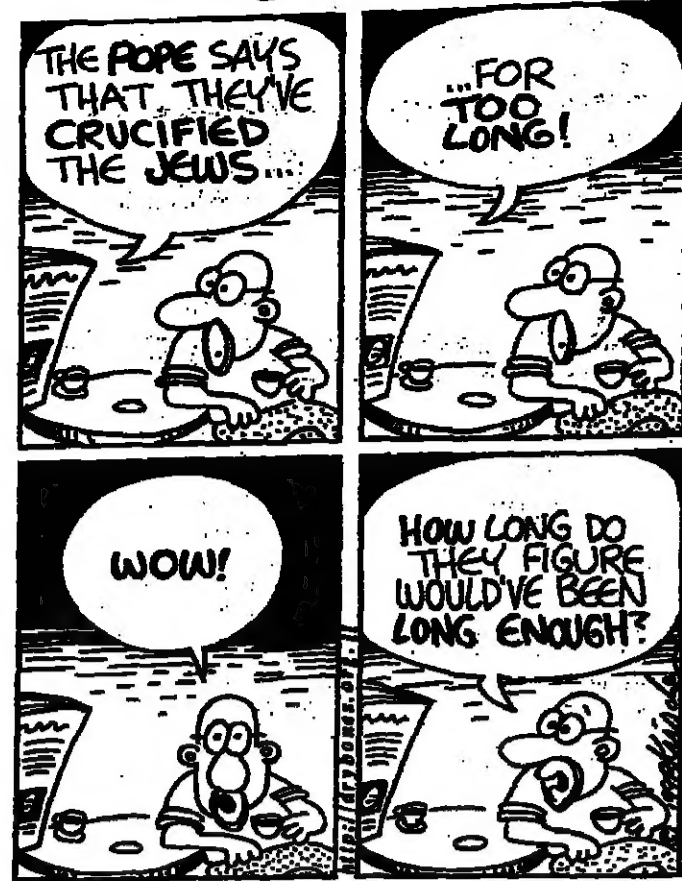
What policy differences? Iran-contra was about policy, a policy toward Nicaragua that Congress changed with the phases of the moon.

Clinton's scandals are about less whimsical principles of law such as the prohibitions against looting banks and suborning perjury.

Moreover, in Iran-contra, if the protagonists practiced deceit, they did so in pursuit of their vision of the national interest. They acted recklessly but selflessly. There was nothing in it for them.

Clinton's deceit, however, is prac-

Dry Bones



seem to be an expression of a much earlier Likud ideology.

AS long as Labor was led by Peres — and despite his different tone — even by Rabin, Labor and the Likud seemed to resemble identical twins on these issues of religion and economics. Each in his own way advanced the argument that Labor would never return to power following the traumatic defeat of 1977, unless it succeeded in wooing the religious and haredi parties away from the Likud. It never helped them much, for while the religious and haredi parties were always prepared to play both sides of the fence, their rank and file had gravitated nearly entirely to the political Right. Rabin, one shouldn't forget, was also the premier who killed the finance minister's attempt to introduce a capital gains tax.

In recent weeks, Labor leader

Ehud Barak has shown signs that he may be ready to break with this two-decade old tradition. His decision to promote legislation that would call for the conscription of haredi draft-age men is one such indication. It means waiting off any haredi party support for Labor.

As a former chief of staff, Barak knows the army needs haredi conscripts — who have been educated since infancy against the state and against serving the general public — like a gaping hole in the head. But he also knows that this is the foremost religious-secular issue that has engendered the deepest hatred for the haredim among the general public.

It's a risky gambit. But my guess is that if he would take a similar risk and also champion the cause of the middle- and lower-classes against the New Rich, the next election is his.

(Washington Post Writers Group)

East and Eden

America Is Prosperous and Smug, Like Japan Was

TOKYO 1989
Finally, the Nikkei index touches 39,000. Japanese newspapers hail the "new era," projecting how many years it will take for Japan's G.N.P. to overtake America's. Japan's revered bureaucrats send missions throughout Asia teaching

neighbors how to replicate the "Japanese model" of capitalism. The country's huge banks, awash in cash, extend their global reach with huge loans abroad, and Finance Ministry regulators ease the rules over midnight karaoke with the bankers in Tokyo's hostess bars. Restaurants sprinkle sushi with gold leaf. Japanese leaders warn that America's "lazy" workers and huge budget deficits are dragging down the world economy.



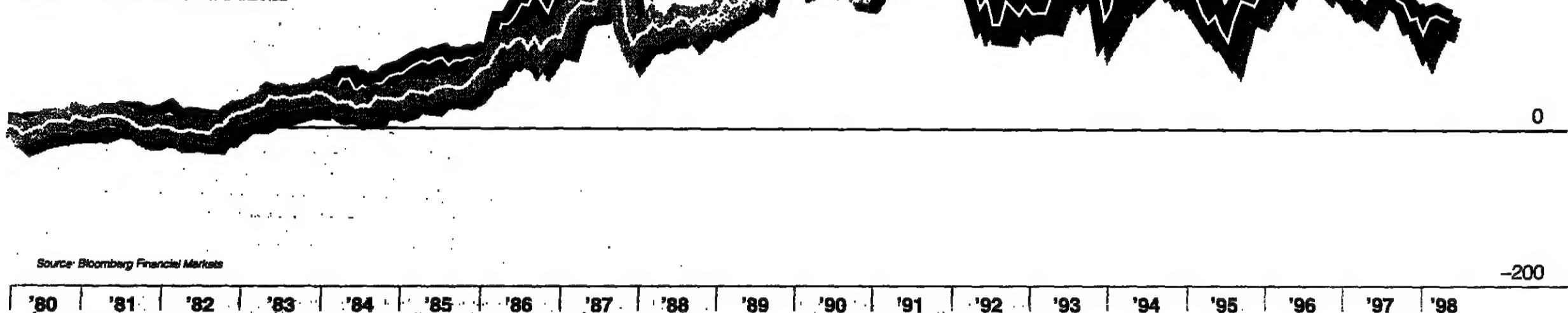
NEW YORK 1998
Finally, the Dow hits 9,000. The Wall Street Journal's Op-Ed page declares the arrival of a new era: old measures of market risk no longer apply. Alan Greenspan, the Fed Chairman, says that the Japanese model of capitalism is dead.

Citicorp and Travelers announce a mega-merger to extend their global reach — but first they make "courtesy calls" to the Treasury Secretary and the President, because the deal violates laws separating banks, brokerages and insurance. Manhattan restaurants charge \$4,000 for a \$1,500 bottle of wine. The President sternly warns Japan that its political paralysis and inadequate economic initiatives threaten the world economy.

Trading Places

The percent change in Japan's Nikkei 225 stock market index and the Dow Jones Industrial average since January 1980, monthly closes except 1998.

PERCENT CHANGE IN THE NIKKEI 225
PERCENT CHANGE IN THE DOW JONES INDUSTRIAL AVERAGE



Source: Bloomberg Financial Markets

By DAVID E. SANGER

COMPARE Japan's raw hubris in the late 1980's and America's in the late 90's has become the latest international parlor game. To economic forecasters, dispensers of global-sounding sound bites and nervous investors — and who isn't nervous? — the eerie similarities are a reminder of what can happen when boom times beget a boom psychology. First, Americans were sounding more and more like the Japanese did in late 1989, just before they reached the mountaintop and blindly stepped into the void. Now, by some measures, Americans are beginning to act like them too.

The Japan of 1989 was not only a place of booming Ferrari sales and lavish corporate entertainment, it was a place where expectations of limitless economic success washed over serious discussion of the economy's weaknesses. Bigger was always equated with "more global" — and size alone was thought to be enough to

immunize businesses, and the country, from bad decisions. Now Japan's biggest banks own the world's most globalized collection of bad debt, which has crippled the country's economy.

The America of 1998 is similarly a place of boundless confidence and rationalizations for ever-rising markets. It is also a place where many economic red flags — in this case, low savings rates, income disparities, rising trade deficits — are often lost in the din of the boom. And when Citicorp and Travelers Group explained the merits of their mega-merger last week, there were echoes of Japan's old logic — bigger, the new partners said, meant more global.

Myths

Of course, comparisons between the Japan of a decade ago and America today, however tempting, must be made with considerable care. Japan's boom created national myths like the one that the land under the Imperial Palace in Tokyo was worth more than all of Florida. It's a matter of debate whether America's boom

is inflating such a bubble of overconfidence. But as anyone who lived in Tokyo then and lives in America now can testify, this country's economic strengths today run considerably deeper than Japan's ever did.

In the 80's and 90's, the United States endured a wave of downsizing, job-shifting and retooling that the Japanese put off and put off, convinced they could muddle through. "The structural differences, the sophistication of the American financial markets, are now so great that the economies are no longer easy to compare," said Jeffrey Garten, the dean of the Yale School of Management. But he warned that "every country at the top of its economic cycle grows enamored of its own system."

There is a lot of that in the air. As the Dow toyed with the 9,000 milestone last week, even one of the President's economic advisers found himself repeating the old saw that "the four most dangerous words in an ever-rising stock market are, 'It's different this time.'" And like Japan in the 80's, the United States has an astounding capability to preach the need for economic reform abroad while missing opportunities to do exactly that when times are prosperous at home.

Remember America's low personal savings rate, one of the favorite explanations for why rich Japan was lending money around the world and America was mired in debt? It's gotten worse: Americans saved 5.5 percent of their disposable income a decade ago, and 3.8 percent last year. The Japanese, astounding as it sounds, are actually saving more than ever, fearful that tomorrow morning that "lifetime job" could turn into very early retirement. (Tellingly, though, more Japanese are putting the money in personal safes, because they doubt the solvency of their own banks.)

And remember those evil American trade deficits? This year they will break almost all records. In part, that is because Asian nations have stopped buying American goods, while desperately shipping stuff here to export their way out of their troubles.

But those numbers also suggest that America may not have improved its productivity as dramatically as some believe. Even with the recent rise in the value of the dollar, it's not clear why America should be running

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Holistic medicine for Fluffy and Fido.

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Forget Cyberspace

Global tourism is becoming a basic human right.

By Barbara Crossette

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Hey! Over Here!

Desperately Seeking Attention in the G.O.P.

By RICHARD L. BERKE

THERE might as well be an open casting call for Leader of the Republican Party. Already, it seems that anyone who is anybody in Republican circles (and a nobody or two) is auditioning for the role.

The prevailing sense that the party, roiled by conflict and confusion, is yearning for the perfect intellectual, spiritual and political figure to guide it back on course has set off a mad (often madcap) dash among would-be leaders who view themselves as the Republican savior. But at times, the cacophony of leadership voices seems to compound the Republicans' aimlessness because it is hard to know if these Republicans are competing to show who has the most imaginative ideas or the biggest lungs.

Every contender has his or her technique for emerging as leader. Some run for Presi-

dent. Others write books or publish magazines. Still others stick knives in the backs of their colleagues on Capitol Hill. And some issue dire threats against established party leaders. The one thing these frantic and disparate voices share is confidence: they all think they can rescue the party.

"You have too many people who think they're the ones who by themselves should set an agenda," said Gov. John M. Engler of Michigan. Then he offered one himself.

Who's on First?

"If I were the leader in Congress right now, I would be trying to pull together Republicans across the spectrum," Mr. Engler said, suggesting that he could do a better job than House Speaker Newt Gingrich or Senator Trent Lott, the majority leader. "Trent should rally the troops. We are going to have many, many candidates for President — presumably there are a few things all of those candidates would agree on."

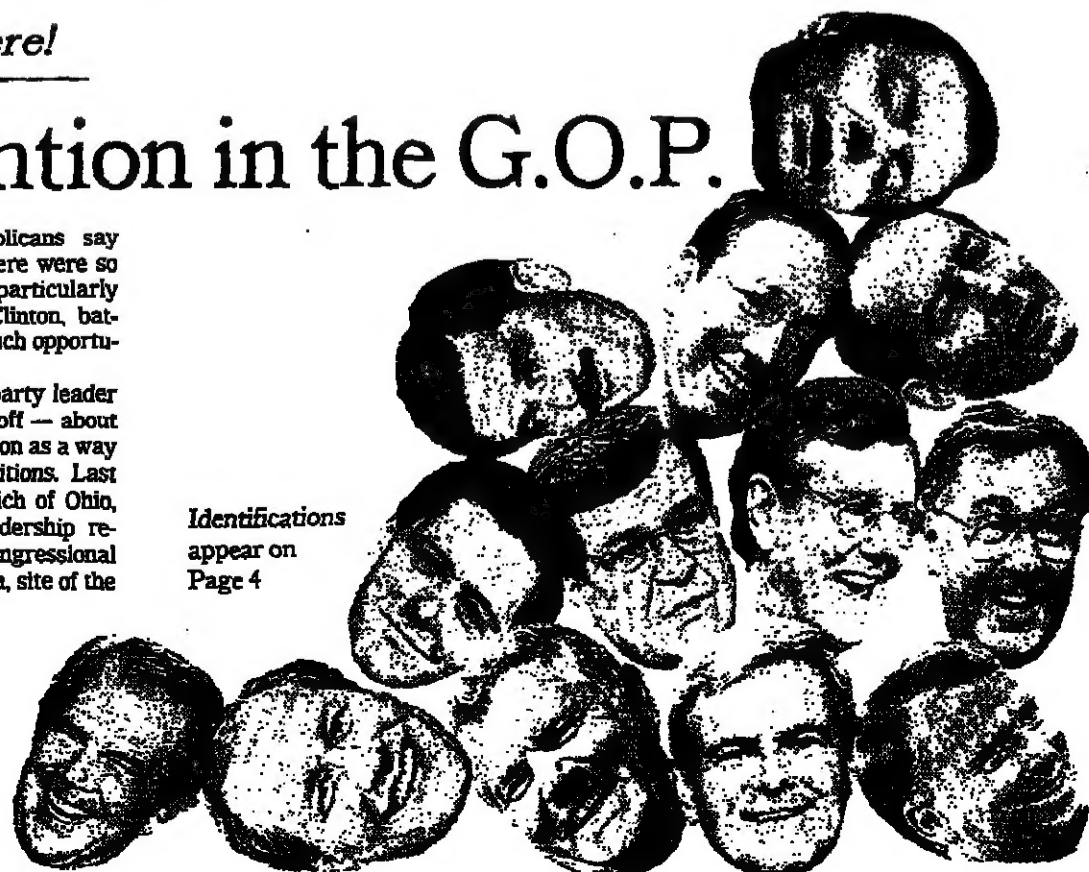
But often, all that comes through are the

disagreements. Veteran Republicans say they cannot remember when there were so many competing voices. That is particularly striking given that President Clinton, battered by scandal, has not had much opportunity to exert leadership himself.

Day after day, one would-be party leader or another pops up — and pops off — about the latest Republican transgression as a way to further his or her own ambitions. Last week, Representative John Kasich of Ohio, whose claim to Republican leadership revolves around his role as chief Congressional budget-balancer, traveled to Iowa, site of the first Presidential caucuses, to denounce Republicans for passing a \$218 billion highway construction bill. "I think the Republican Party lost its way on this bill," said Mr. Kasich, chairman of the Budget Committee. That same day,

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The World

America Frets as Its Chums Play Their Own Games

Saudis Make Nice With The Iranians

By ELAINE SCOLINO

FOR half a century, the Persian Gulf has held a crucial place in American policy making. Repeatedly, its oil and its leaders have drawn the United States into its sometimes deadly games, even as its rivalries and intrigues have confounded American strategy.

So the United States can end up preoccupied with the smallest events, on the assumption that they may be the prelude to something big.

This is one of those times. Saudi Arabia, America's closest ally in the Persian Gulf, and Iran, one of Washington's most bitter foes, have been busy trying to charm each other. Nobody in Washington thinks the basic relationships among the three countries have shifted. But American officials are taking notice, aware that even subtle atmospheric changes can have far-reaching psychological effects in the Middle East.

In the two decades since Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini fomented Iran's revolution, the Saudis and Iranians have never been particularly close. The elderly

Even the big guy on the block sometimes winds up on the sidelines.

cleric held that all the gulf Arab monarchies — including Saudi Arabia — were illegitimate. Even in death, he spewed venom against the Saudis. His last will and testament called for the public cursing of the Saudi royal family for "treachery" against the House of God.

Since then, Saudi Arabia and Iran have moved slowly — very slowly — to shape a more normal relationship. That effort accelerated late last year, when Crown Prince Abdullah met Iran's President, Mohammed Khatami, in Tehran at the summit of Islamic countries. After two meetings, the Iranian cleric and the Saudi prince gave signals that they had, in a manner of speaking, bonded. This "is the start of a new era in relations between the two big countries of the region," Mr. Khatami told Crown Prince Abdullah. "I truly feel that I am in my own country," the Crown Prince replied.

The feel-good encounters were followed by a pilgrimage by Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani, Iran's former President, to Mecca in March. The pilgrimage was a kind of dry run for President Khatami, who has now been invited to visit the country.

These days, there are no more rumblings from the Kingdom that Iran might have been involved in the terrorist bombing of an apartment building in Saudi Arabia in 1996 that left 18 American servicemen dead. In fact, Saudi Arabia announced last month that it would allow its national airline to fly in and out of Tehran for the first time since shortly after the revolution.

So the question in Washington is: What's up? It's not that the Saudis no longer feel a threat from Iran. They do. They have no illusion that Iran has abandoned its long-term goal of dominance in the gulf. And in the strict religious tradition of the Wahabi branch of Islam that dominates Saudi Arabia, Iran's Shiites come close to being apostates.

But the Saudis also want to get along. It takes only 15 minutes for a fighter jet from Iran's southern port of Bushehr to reach Saudi Arabia's northern oil fields. Saudi Arabia has serious problems with its own restless Shiites. The two countries are OPEC's largest oil producers, and a coordinated oil policy is in the interests of both. And gestures of reconciliation further isolate their mutual enemy of the moment, Iraq.

So Crown Prince Abdullah has little reason to ignore an Iranian leader who preaches a desire to reach out and touch his neighbors. "Does all this mean that the Saudis trust the Iranians or that the Iranians trust the Saudis?" asked Anthony Cordesman, the military analyst and author. "Hell, no. The basic power structure of the gulf is a constant balancing and rebalancing act. They are trying to exploit opportunities and jockey for power. It's basic balance-of-power politics."



A Saudi delegate to an Islamic summit meeting spoke on a mobile phone in Iran in December . . .



. . . and now Jacques Chirac of France, Boris Yeltsin of Russia and Helmut Kohl of Germany have met.

And that is where the American anxiety comes in, because the United States is a crucial player in the balancing act. Saudi Arabia's close relationship with America and the large American military presence in the gulf have created friction between the Saudis and the Iranians. Pentagon planners wonder whether the two countries could eventually reach an understanding on dictating limits on the American military presence.

The stability of the Saudi Kingdom is of so much concern to the United States that since the bombing of the military housing, a special task force of analysts has been studying the Kingdom under the same rigorous process used to assess the most serious potential threats to American national security.

Saying No

The Saudis who hold power now are not about to walk away from the United States, of course. It's just that the relationship is a lot more difficult than when King Fahd was in good health, in charge and eager to please the United States. Crown Prince Abdullah, who is running the country on a day-to-day basis, simply isn't as likely as his brother, the King, to say yes every time the United States asks for something.

When Defense Secretary William S. Cohen visited in February in a vain effort to win support for possible military action against Iraq, Crown Prince Abdullah

simply made himself unavailable. Prince Sultan, the Defense Minister, stood in. A week later, the Crown Prince did turn up for a meeting with Secretary of State Madeleine K. Albright. Ever-protective of his boss, the State Department spokesman, James P. Rubin, said she found the encounter "fascinating"; other officials described it as a stern lecture by Crown Prince Abdullah on the failings of American policy in the Middle East, followed by an equally stern defense by Ms. Albright.

The Iranians, meanwhile, are not about to embrace the United States. They have been demanding for two decades that the American military leave the gulf, and that is not likely to change. But already the Saudis have urged the Clinton Administration to help along Iran's new President and have offered to mediate.

One thought remains profoundly comforting to the policy planners in Washington. Whatever else is going on between Saudi Arabia and Iran, trust is not part of the equation. Crown Prince Hamad bin Isa al-Khalifa of Bahrain, one of Saudi Arabia's close neighbors, shared a joke recently with a senior Administration official visiting the sheikhdom. In Iran, he said, "You have three people in charge: You have Khamenei, and he is in charge of religion and terrorism," referring to Iran's ruling spiritual leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei. "You have Rafsanjani, and he is in charge of business and terrorism. And you have Khatami, and he is in charge of internal politics, moderation and terrorism."

Germany Sits In With A New Team

By STEVEN ERLANGER

THE problem with labeling yourself the world's "indispensable nation," as Secretary of State Madeleine K. Albright is fond of calling the United States, is that you become hypersensitive if other nations, less convinced or more uneasy, start meeting without you.

Late last month in Moscow, the French, Germans and Russians had their very first summit meeting, and Washington did not take the prospect calmly. Senior American officials like the Deputy Secretary of State, Strobe Talbott, were feverishly interrogating their French and German counterparts about what such a meeting might encompass and what it might mean.

The United States regards the new Russia as something of a pet project, if not exactly a client. Helping Russia to feel part of a wider Europe, as NATO enlarges, is fine as far as it goes. But the Americans want to be sure that any special Franco-German understandings with Russia won't undercut an already fraying U.S.-Russia relationship.

A Matter of Resentment

Just as important, the simple fact of undisputed American power tends to create resentment and efforts at counterbalance, especially among newly reduced nations like Russia or rising ones like China.

Russia's President, Boris N. Yeltsin, and China's President, Jiang Zemin, have already held summit meetings in which they took turns denouncing the dangers of a "mono-polar world." It is a theme that has always made hearts beat a little faster in Gaullist France, which still sees the European Union, in essence, as a counterweight to a clumsy Washington.

As it happened, the troika summit itself had little substance, and it was much overshadowed by Mr. Yeltsin's impulsive decision, a couple of days before, to fire his Prime Minister and the entire Cabinet. Having just returned to work after another illness, Mr. Yeltsin behaved bizarrely, calling for a post-summit press conference before the summit meeting itself began.

But with another such summit scheduled next year in France — and with Britain, currently holding the European Union presidency, left out entirely — there were a lot of quizzical eyebrows raised.

Chancellor Helmut Kohl, a fond friend of the United States, may see his job as a Social Democrat. Gerhard Schröder, and Jacques Chirac, with any certainty who might follow, clearly deteriorating Mr. Yeltsin.

On Iran and Iraq, and now on Kosovo, the French position is increasingly closer to the Russian view than the American one. Traditional French power politics nearly requires, with Russia so much weaker than Washington, that Paris lean more firmly toward Moscow, and if Bonn can be pulled along, so much the better.

France's President, Jacques Chirac, took pride in what he called an "extremely symbolic" event. "Historically," he said, "relations among Russia, Germany and France have always been complex, full of ulterior motives and contradictory strategies. This is the first time, in our contemporary history, that Germany, France and Russia are meeting together in Moscow."

Mr. Kohl looked uneasy during Mr. Yeltsin's antics, especially during the dazed Russian leader's disquisition on the summit as a milestone in the creation of a "Greater Europe," which, he predicted, "will be the dominant power."

Mr. Kohl went out of his way to stress that this "big troika" was not aimed at the United States — much the same message that the Americans so often try to send the Russians about NATO expansion. "This meeting is, naturally, not directed at anyone else," he said, and he made sure the agenda stuck to continental, rather than transatlantic, issues.

Keeping Washington Informed

Even more striking, senior German diplomats immediately telephoned senior American officials at the State Department, as soon as the meeting was over, to give a readout of what had happened there, without waiting for the Americans to ask. And both French and German officials briefed the British.

David P. Calleo, director of European Studies at the Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies here, sees a basic irony in the American angst. "We push the Russians around on NATO enlargement and the Caspian Sea, and we push the Europeans to get their act together and do their own thing, and then we act surprised," he said.

It's hard to complain about the Russians, who have been feeling neglected, wanting to have a relationship with two major European powers, Mr. Calleo said. "It would be even worse to have the French and Russians together without the Germans. Europe depends to a great degree on the Franco-German connection, and if anything goes seriously wrong with that, we're in trouble."

It was essentially for that reason, German diplomats explain, that Mr. Kohl reluctantly accepted the Franco-Russian invitation to the summit in the first place, even though it left the British out.

Since World War II, Germany has always looked to Washington for both connections and protection, wanting to insure that the United States remains tightly bound to Europe and European security. The American presence keeps not only French ambitions in check, but German ones, too — something of a relief to those Germans who are suspicious of their own impulses.

Like most peoples, the Germans don't mind being wooed, but don't want to feel ripped between the Anglo-Saxons on one hand and a traditional French-Russian alliance on the other. German officials chose to see the summit in the context of European stability. "There is a strong desire on the part of Russia not to sit down at European tables all the time with Holland and Luxembourg and Belgium," a senior German official said. "It's an identity issue for Moscow. They prefer to discuss these issues of European security with nations they consider adequate."

And a French official urged Washington to calm itself. "The main purpose is to try to show Moscow that E.U. and NATO enlargement is not aimed at Russia," the official said. "Regional initiatives will happen in a globalized world. We don't, as in the past, systematically interpret what the Americans do in foreign policy as directed against us, and we hope the Americans won't assume that all we do is directed at them."

America Is Complacent, Like Japan Was

Continued From Page 9

trade deficits at all.

To pay for all its imports, America is still borrowing abroad — even from the Japanese, who would much rather have their money earn 5 percent here than 0.5 percent at home. In 1990, when borrowing foreign cash to buy foreign goods was decried as evidence of national weakness, about \$458 billion in Treasury securities belonged to non-Americans. Today, the figure has risen to \$1.2 trillion. But in the happy glow of the American boom, this is now interpreted as a sign of global confidence in the American economy.

"This is classic economic euphoria," says Laura D'Andrea Tyson, former head of the national economic council. "In prosperous times we overstate the good and understate the bad."

Her old boss, President Clinton, gingerly began to warn against this tendency last week, saying it's time "to bear down and do more in the good times, not to relax and pat ourselves on the back." But his grand national gab-a-thon about how to save the Social Security system, which began last week, may not be enough to lift Congress out of its ideological swamp.

The Japanese sidestepped lots of tough problems in the 80's as well, back when it was unimaginable that the chairman of Sony would warn, as he did recently, that the Japanese economy is "on the verge of collapse." Perhaps the biggest lesson of Japan's bitter decade is that it's a lot more expensive to fix an economy in recession than when it's running on autopilot.

Just look at the opening of Japan's huge securities and financial services markets to the likes of Fidelity, Goldman, Sachs and Citibank — the so-called "Big

Bang" that was delayed at the insistence of Japan's financial industry back when Japan bestrode the world.

The day finally arrived two weeks ago. But if the Japanese opened the financial market a decade ago, when money was everywhere, they could have spent billions to build software systems and lure world-class talent to take on Wall Street. Now, desperately trying to avoid bankruptcy, they don't have the cash to compete with the arriving foreign hordes.

Buying Out Japan

Worse yet, the foreigners are buying out failed Japanese institutions. Merrill Lynch has snapped up the retail operations — and the experienced employees — of the failed Yamazaki Securities Company, a giant brokerage that collapsed last year. Other American companies are now trying to persuade rich, elderly Japanese that the best place for their money is in mutual funds that invest outside their own country. It's a tough sell in small towns in Kyushu, but it's beginning to work.

Amid all the American triumphalism about the demise of the Japanese model, though, there's a lot of politics under way in Washington that sounds familiar to anyone who has hung out in the corridors of the Japan's once-mighty Finance Ministry.

For sheer audacity, it is hard to match the Citicorp-Travelers merger. It is clearly forbidden by the Depression-era Glass-Steagall Act, designed to keep financial institutions from mingling federally insured bank deposits with Wall Street trading.

No one doubts that those laws need to be updated; they were designed to build protective walls for small-town banks like the one George Bailey ran in "It's a

Wonderful Life," not the 24-hour global behemoths of currency swaps and derivatives. And since 1978, Congress has been frozen in place, sucking in campaign contributions from all the interest groups with billions riding on how the bills are tweaked. Citicorp even helped kill a bill two weeks ago that would have enabled the very kind of merger it is now trying to complete. But by announcing the merger and then insisting that Congress make it legal, Citicorp and Travelers are attempting to make Congress pass a bill that fits the deal.

Maybe that will finally break the logjam. But even Paul A. Volcker, the former chairman of the Federal Reserve, noted the irony last week that Congress is under pressure "to weaken our traditional barrier to combinations of commerce and banking, precisely the practice in Asia and elsewhere that we rail against as a major source of institutional weakness."

Japan is a testament to the risks of getting the mix wrong. Its banks rose on their holdings in the Japanese stock market, which emboldened them to lend money for wildly overpriced land deals. Then the stock market collapsed, the real estate market followed, the loans went bad and the banks ceased lending — putting the Japanese economy into a seven-year-long deep freeze.

The Government is now pumping in taxpayer money to help the banks get rid of \$600 billion in bad loans. It spent untold billions last month trying to buck up the stock market, and just announced a \$76 billion emergency spending program that is probably not enough to revive the moribund economy.

So maybe, amid Washington's celebrations, it's worth getting some Congressional testimony from a laid-off Japanese bank executive or two. They certainly have time on their hands.

The World

Surprises in the Global Tourism Boom

By BARBARA CROSSETTE

IF those spring holiday airport crowds seem worse than ever this year, think of that suitcase on your foot as merely a harbinger of even bigger things to come. Travel — year-round and around the world — is taking off on a phenomenal upward trajectory, with the numbers of tourists growing faster, proportionately, than the population of the countries they come from, or go to visit. Trips closer to home are also on the increase almost everywhere. Spending on travel is expected to grow fivefold in the next two decades.

An industry that moves so many people from place to place — on as many as six billion trips a year — and accounts for 10 percent of the world's annual economic growth is bound to have more than just economic effects. Decades ago package tours began laying waste to the Spain's Costa Brava, Caribbean islands and some priceless Himalayan valleys. In the hamlet of Lukla, the jumping-off point for Mount Everest, they started serving muesli and french toast for breakfast and selling nice, soft toilet paper for trails with no toilets. Borneo's jungles got video. Want a picture of a stately African Masai hunter or an Igorot villager in Luzon? Pay up. You take

The world's swarming with travelers. Even the Internet isn't keeping people home.

their privacy, and maybe their souls. They take your money.

But mass travel has another side. More people are meeting people than at any time in history. In a country like China, where millions are beginning to travel, this exposure could either bind the country or further fragment it as people decide how much alike or different they are. Imagine the earful tour groups from Beijing or Shanghai might get traveling in Tibet or Hong Kong some day. Travel creates jobs and earns hard currency in scores of countries, including the United States, where it is a major export and services industry. Its very destructiveness has sounded alarms, and not just a few countries have awakened in time to save their land and heritage, learning in the process how precious their culture is.

Travel, even group tourism, has been around for centuries. People have long teamed up on pilgrimages, as we know from Chaucer's "Canterbury Tales." Thomas Cook, the father of modern tourism, got his start in the British Midlands taking groups to temperance rallies (tea and sandwiches included). The difference now is scale. Wide-bodied aircraft, deregulation and competition mean more routes and lower fares. With the almost complete collapse of Communism, many barriers have fallen or been torn down, releasing pent-up demand for travel in both directions: visitors out, visitors in. Rudimentary English has become the industry's international language.

Even Americans, still laggards at crossing borders when compared with many Europeans and Asians, picked up a record number of passports — six million — in the last year, the State Department says, and there are now more than 45 million American passports in circulation.

In an age of global economics, business travel has pushed up passport applications, not only for the traveling executive. Family members are now nearly three times as likely to be included on business trips than in 1990. Robert Kaplan, who poked around the far corners for his book, "The Ends of the Earth" (Random House) said business

travelers are now probably the most savvy tourists. "Look at Forbes, Fortune — what business people read," he said. "They are filled with articles about the outside world."

Paradoxically, the electronic connections enjoyed by businesses and home computer owners may be encouraging, not discouraging, travel. The Travel Industry Association of America found that six million Americans booked trips online this year, often after browsing through electronic encyclopedias, atlases and the home pages of state or foreign tourism authorities. The association predicts that by the end of 1998 bookings via the Internet may rise to 18 million.

Voyages to Granny

Cyberspace can never beat the heat, the smells, the sounds, the sense of Foreign. For Mr. Kaplan, the experience of arrival may be the tipoff to a place.

"Look closely at airports and you can see how a country is doing," he said. "Is the airport safe? Do you have to pay bribes? Airports are quasi-governmental places." Closer to home, he added, "you don't have to leave Penn Station to know that New York is getting better."

As more immigrants become United States citizens, getting to grandmother's house is no longer just a jaunt over the river and through the woods, but more likely a voyage over continents and seas. Immigrant families, fewer of whom have had to renounce all ties to their homelands because of political dangers, are traveling back to keep their children in close touch. Americans with deeper roots here go to take a look at where their neighbors came from.

When Catherine O'Neill, an expert on refugees, and her husband, Richard Reeves, the political writer, went globetrotting with their joint extended family a year ago, she handed out questionnaires at each stop. "I really felt that they are going to live in a global world, and that to understand it only from the perspective of the U.S. and Europe is not really seeing it," said Ms. O'Neill, the author with her husband of "Family Travels: Around the World in 30 (or So) Days" (Andrews and McMeel). "I asked them: In this country do they have jobs that we don't have in the United States? What kind of movies are being advertised? How do people get around the streets? In your life, will this country be important?"

Twenty years ago, when the world's population was 4.4 billion, 287 million people took international trips, according to the World Tourism Organization. By 1996, when global population stood at about 5.7 billion, 395 million international tourists were on the move. In 1996, the tourism organization's experts predict, 1.6 billion of the world's 7.5 billion people will take a foreign trip.

Internal Travel

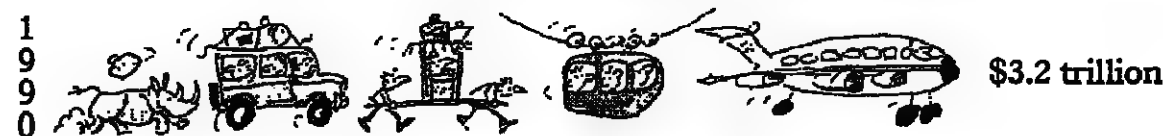
Billions more will take their first, modest vacations closer to home. For example, a man in Beijing named Wang and his small family recently boarded No. 1 Special Tourism Bus in the Chinese capital for their first trip to the Great Wall, about 80 miles away. Xinhua, the Chinese news agency, which told their story, said that Mr. Wang was one of nearly 77 million people who visited tourist sites in or around Beijing last year. They spent, on average, about \$10 a family.

In India, the world's second-most-populous country, whole villages charter buses and occasionally trains to take people with very little expendable income to places that were out of the reach of earlier generations. Tour operators everywhere are finding that standards of living need to rise only marginally for people to get an itch to hit the road. Perhaps even because of hard times — like the economic stress Asia is now experiencing — the popularity of short trips continues to rise.

Not every place is automatically threatened by an invasion, said Mr. Kaplan. "Are we messing up the world?" he asked. "I see that more in the Caribbean than anywhere else, where the islands are so small. But the Hyatts and Marriotts in a place like Cairo

WORLDWIDE SPENDING ON TRAVEL

Spending by all tourists, including travel, room and board and discretionary expenses. 2000 is a projection.



TRAVEL AND TOURISM CAPITAL INVESTMENT

Includes investment in all travel-related industries, including transportation, hotels, food and support businesses. 2000 is a projection.



EMPLOYMENT IN TOURISM INDUSTRIES

Global employment in all tourism-related industries. 2000 is a projection.



kind of disappear among the 14 million people.

The widely held view among environmentalists — who don't know whether to weep or cheer at the news that ecotourism is now one of the fastest-growing travel sectors — has been that mass international tourism has been the most damaging to natural settings. But as numbers of domestic travelers grow, that assumption cracks. In the case of India, with nearly a billion people, foreign travelers are still very small in number — not even one-sixth of the 17 million tourists who go to Thailand annually, for example. Indian beaches and mountain resorts, monuments and historical sites are taking a trouncing from short-haul Indian visitors. Similarly, Southeast Asia is experiencing a boom in the construction of clubs and golf courses for the

local business class, and it has forever altered rural landscapes.

Countries can respond to environmental and cultural problems imaginatively. The Himalayan kingdom of Bhutan raised prices and limited the number of tourist visas issued; it also developed with the World Bank a trust fund for protecting one of the last pristine mountain environments in Asia. The World Bank and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, have both helped the Mexican state of Oaxaca excavate, preserve and display Meso-American archeological ruins — saving sites but also making them accessible to tourists in a controlled way.

"Oaxaca is the best example of how you can have cultural tourism enhance the value of a historical site by having a local popula-

tion very committed not only to conservation but to helping new generations create a new heritage of living cultures," said Lourdes Arizpe, a Unesco cultural official and a Mexican anthropologist. "Otherwise, we turn the world into a museum."

For both tourists and hosts, fortifying cultures as well as buildings is important, said Deborah Luhrman of the World Tourism Organization. "Tourism provides the money to restore local sites and monuments," she said. "It also helps the people who live there to understand the value of what they have."

"Travel is one of the basic human rights now," Ms. Luhrman said. "It is part of what makes the quality of life better. For some people, the right to travel has become part of political freedom."

Round and Round They Go. And Where They Stop and Shop.

THE TOP DESTINATIONS

International tourist arrivals (excluding same-day visitors).

RANK	ARRIVALS
1996	Millions
1. France (1)	62.4
2. United States (4)	46.3
3. Spain (2)	41.3
4. Italy (3)	32.9
5. Britain (6)	28.3
6. China (13)	22.8
7. Mexico (9)	21.4
8. Hungary (11)	20.7
9. Poland (22)	19.4
10. Canada (7)	17.3
11. Austria (5)	17.1
12. Czech Rep. (16)	17.0
13. Germany (8)	15.2
14. Russia (18)	14.6
15. Hong Kong (19)	11.7
16. Switzerland (10)	10.6
17. Portugal (15)	9.7
18. Greece (14)	9.0
19. Turkey (27)	8.0
20. Thailand (25)	7.2
21. Malaysia (21)	7.1
22. Singapore (23)	6.6
23. Netherlands (20)	6.6
24. Belgium (17)	6.3
25. Ireland (24)	5.3

WHO EARNS THE MOST

International tourism receipts (excluding transportation).

RANK	RECEIPTS
1996	\$ billions
1. United States (1)	\$69.4
2. Italy (2)	28.7
3. France (4)	26.4
4. Spain (3)	27.4
5. Britain (5)	19.3
6. Germany (7)	16.3
7. Austria (6)	14.0
8. Hong Kong (12)	10.8
9. China (21)	10.2
10. Switzerland (8)	8.9
11. Canada (9)	8.5
12. Australia (27)	8.7
13. Thailand (23)	8.4
14. Poland (77)	7.9
15. Singapore (15)	6.9
16. Mexico (10)	6.3
17. Netherlands (14)	6.1
18. Indonesia (43)	6.0
19. Turkey (18)	5.9
20. Belgium (13)	5.5
21. Russia (16)	5.4
22. South Korea (35)	4.8
23. Argentina (29)	4.3
24. Portugal (24-tied)	4.1
25. Japan (24-tied)	4.1

WHO SPENDS THE MOST

International tourist spending (excluding transportation).

RANK	SPENDING
1996	\$ billions
1. Americans (1)	\$52.6
2. Germans (2)	49.8
3. Japanese (4)	37.0
4. British (3)	25.4
5. French (5)	17.8
6. Italians (10)	15.5
7. Austrians (8)	11.8
8. Dutch (7)	11.4
9. Canadians (6)	11.1
10. Russians (-)	10.6
11. Belgians (12)	9.9
12. Swiss (9)	7.5
13. South Koreans (25)	7.0
14. Brazilians (19)	6.8
15. Taiwanese (17)	6.5
16. Swedes (14)	6.3
17. Poles (50)	6.2
18. Singaporeans (24)	6.1
19. Australians (15)	5.3
20. Spanish (21)	4.9
21. Norwegians (18)	4.5
22. Thais (43)	4.2
23. Danes (18)	4.1
24. Chinese (40)	4.0
25. Mexicans (11)	3.4

WHERE THE TOP SPENDERS GO

The number of tourists arriving in each nation in 1996 from the nations that spend the most on international tourism, in millions.

AMERICAN TOURISTS

Mexico	2.2
Canada	2.2
Britain	3.3
France	2.6
Italy	2.4
Puerto Rico	2.2
Germany	1.6
Bahamas	1.3
Spain	1.0
Jamaica	0.8

GERMAN TOURISTS

France	3.8
Spain	3.4
Austria	2.4
Italy	2.4
Poland	3.3
Hungary	3.0
Britain	2.3
Netherlands	2.0
Switzerland	2.0
U.S.	2.0

JAPANESE TOURISTS

U.S.	5.0
Hong Kong	2.4
Italy	1.7
China	1.6
S. Korea	1.5
Singapore	1.2
Guam	1.0
Thailand	0.9
Taiwan	0.9
Australia	0.8

BRITISH TOURISTS

France	3.2
Spain	3.2
Ireland	3.1
U.S.	3.1
Greece	1.6
Italy	1.6
Germany	1.4
Portugal	1.3
Netherlands	1.0
Belgium	0.8

FRENCH TOURISTS

Britain	3.8
Spain	3.4
Italy	2.4
U.S.	1.0
Germany	0.8
Belgium	0.8
Portugal	0.6
Turkey	0.6
Austria	0.6
Tunisia	0.5

ITALIAN TOURISTS

France	5.3
Spain	2.2
Britain	0.9
Germany	0.8
Austria	0.8
U.S.	0.6
Greece	0.5
Croatia	0.5
Switzerland	0.4
Egypt	0.4

Ideas & Trends

Read This or We'll Stick the Dog Again

By MARGALIT FOX

FIDO has arthritis, so the vet sticks him full of pins. Fluffy gets better. Fluffy is scratching the neighbors. A few doses of a solution made from the essence of flowers and Fluffy is the soul of purring tranquility. Hokus? Magic realism?

Neither, according to practitioners and consumers of holistic veterinary medicine, a constellation of non-traditional therapies increasingly popular as adjuncts, or alternatives, to conventional veterinary care.

In recent years, many alternative practices that caught on with humans in the 1960's and 70's — acupuncture, chiropractic, homeopathy, nutritional therapy and botanical medicine — have been employed by a growing number of veterinarians. These therapies, some of which have roots in Eastern medicine, are used to treat everything from arthritis and skin problems to gastroin-

A growing number of vets are using holistic therapies to cure Spot and Fluffy.

testinal ailments, hernias and behavioral disorders.

"Every technique that's used in people can be used in animals," said Carvel Tiekert, a veterinarian in Bel Air, Md., who is the executive director of the American Holistic Veterinary Medical Association. Dr. Tiekert founded the organization in 1982 with about 30 members; today, he says, it has about 700 members.

Some practitioners use holistic methods exclusively; others combine them with Western medicine and surgery. "I define holistic medicine as everything that works," Dr. Tiekert said.

A number of pet owners, themselves satisfied consumers of alternative medicine, are inspired to seek similar treatment for their animals. Others, having exhausted the round of orthodox therapies, seek holistic medicine as a last resort.

"When people come to me, they've gone the gamut of drugs and they're looking for something else," said Marcie Fallek, a holistic veterinarian who practices in

Manhattan and Fairfield, Conn.

Dr. Fallek, 45, specializes in acupuncture and homeopathy, in which minute doses of toxins, hugely diluted, are used to stimulate the body's natural defenses. (Toxins include arsenic, poison ivy, rattlesnake venom, rotten meat, tincture of tarantula and the saliva of a rabid dog.)

The cost of alternative treatment varies with the practitioner. A single acupuncture session, for example, might range from \$40 to \$75. For a 45-minute homeopathic consultation, Dr. Tiekert charges \$112.50; by comparison, he said, a 20-minute appointment with a conventional veterinary specialist might be \$60 to \$70.

A Mixed Reaction

In the larger veterinary community, the response to holistic medicine has ranged from benign indifference to outright condemnation. "I've heard people make comments that they didn't believe in this and they thought it was witchcraft, but that's certainly not the prevailing attitude," said John Freeman, president of the American Veterinary Medical Association, which has more than 61,000 members in the United States and Canada.

In 1996, the association issued a set of guidelines for the practice of alternative medicine. While the guidelines do not constitute an endorsement, Dr. Freeman said, they acknowledge the increasing demand by pet owners for nontraditional approaches, and the increasing interest among many vets — along with occasional acupuncturists and chiropractors — in providing them.

"There is some good anecdotal data out there to suggest these treatments are beneficial," he said, adding that further controlled studies and peer review are needed before a definitive evaluation can be made.

One of Dr. Fallek's current patients is Phoebe, a 5-year-old golden retriever mix who was hit by a car in November. As a result of the accident, in which two of her vertebrae were displaced, Phoebe's hindquarters were paralyzed. Chances of recovery were deemed poor, and Phoebe's owner, David Ulrich, a clinical psychologist who lives in Stamford and Lyme, Conn., was advised by another veterinarian to consider euthanasia. Then Mr. Ulrich's acupuncturist recommended Dr. Fallek, who began treating Phoebe with acupuncture, castor oil packs on her back, vitamins and nutritional supplements.

During a recent appointment with Dr. Fallek, Phoebe, who started to walk again 10 days after the treatment began, pranced around the Manhattan apartment borrowed for the occasion. The dog has recovered almost



Max, an 8-year-old white shepherd, got acupuncture treatment from Marcie Fallek, a holistic veterinarian.

completely, Dr. Fallek said; X-rays of Phoebe's spine show the displaced vertebrae realigned.

Dr. Fallek coaxed Phoebe to lie on a mat and inserted 1 1/2-inch-long acupuncture needles near the dog's spine, forming a ring around the site of the injury. "There are different meridians where energy runs through the body," Dr. Fallek said. "The Chinese see disease as a blockage of energy along the meridians, and what we do is try to unblock it."

She attached electrodes to the needles and applied low-level electrical stimulation, a procedure she described as painless. "This is helping the chi, or the

energy, pass through the obstruction," she explained. Phoebe's reaction to the procedure was to investigate whether the electrodes were edible.

"Relax, Phoebe," Mr. Ulrich said. "Just feel that energy pulsing through you." Then he and Dr. Fallek resumed their discussion of whether chi can be transmitted directly between people by touch. The treatment ended and Phoebe, liberated, was off and running.

Dr. Fallek, whose veterinary education was strictly Western, now makes holistic medicine the mainstay of her practice. "I think conventional medicine has its place," she said. "I just don't want to be the one to do it."

Seeking Attention In the G.O.P.

Continued From Page 9

Governor Tommy Thompson of Wisconsin scolded Republicans as well. "What's wrong with the Republican Party is that, after the revolution four years ago, we forgot where we are from," he said. "Republicans in Washington are pretty much like Democrats."

Even people who are already leaders, like Speaker Gingrich, are determined to persuade voters that they can go a step further and lead the nation. Mr. Gingrich seems increasingly focused on running for President, not running the House. Mr. Gingrich last week began touting his vision as part of a tour to sell his new book. He said it would be presumptuous to even think about running for President before Labor Day of 1999. He made that comment during a stop in New Hampshire, the state that holds the first Presidential primary.

While Mr. Gingrich insists he has made no decisions, the angling for his job as leader of House Republicans is well under way between Representative Dick Armey, the majority leader, and Representative Robert L. Livingston, chairman of the Appropriations Committee. Mr. Livingston recently boasted that he had all but wrapped up a victory in the race for Speaker — anticipating (or hoping) that Mr. Gingrich will step down.

Mr. Armey was furious at Mr. Livingston's brash comments, but he has quietly sought support for his own candidacy. Last week, Mr. Armey, seeking the support of Christian conservatives, asked Republicans to be less restrained in commenting on Mr. Clinton's character, calling him "shameless."

Fretting About Congress

Then Pat Robertson, the founder of the Christian Coalition, weighed in. "They'd better follow Dick Armey and do a little bit more of this because they're in danger of losing Congress this fall," Mr. Robertson said on his television show.

Mr. Robertson's unusual outspokenness was a manifestation of an explosive rivalry between the Christian Coalition and two leaders of religious conservatives, Gary Bauer, the president of the Family Research Council who is considering a run for the White House, and James Dobson, the host of a Christian radio show.

Mr. Dobson has aggressively asserted himself as the pre-eminent religious conservative — to the point that he has threatened to yank his followers from the Republican fold if the party is not sufficiently sympathetic to his cause. In a letter to more than 2,000 supporters last week, Mr. Dobson boasted that his attacks had paid off. "I'm still getting invitations almost every day from major networks and news sources," he said.

Donald P. Rodel, president of the Christian Coalition, is a rival of Mr. Dobson but has adopted his tactic: bash the party establishment. In a recent speech, he scolded the party for helping moderates like Gov. Christine Todd Whitman of New Jersey.

"I don't think it's productive to say derogatory things about people by name," said Jim Nicholson, the Republican chairman.

The most conventional approach is simply for Republicans to launch all-out presidential campaigns. They are particularly enticed because the party's nomination appears more wide open than in at least a generation. Among the cavalcade of hopefuls already on the hustings are former Vice President Dan Quayle, Steve Forbes and Lamar Alexander. But the prospect who ranks highest in polls of Republicans is also the contender who has worked the hardest to stay out of the limelight: Gov. George W. Bush of Texas.

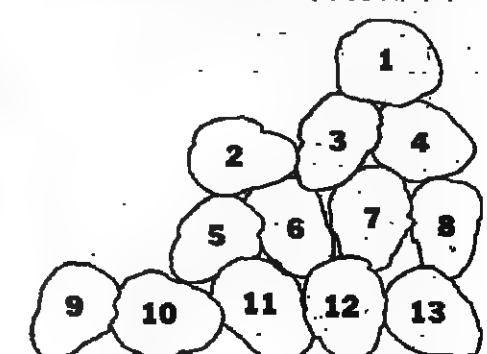
Nonpoliticians have also joined the fray. From his perch as publisher of The Weekly Standard, a conservative magazine, Bill Kristol tells Republicans how they should think, act and lead the country. And Frank Luntz, a Republican pollster, has faxed a "confidential" memorandum to Republicans in Washington urging party members not to be reluctant about speaking out about Mr. Clinton's character.

"The challenge for the G.O.P. is whether they can find a single individual to unite all these different visions and all these different agendas under one roof," Mr. Luntz said. "I don't see it now, but I assume that individual will emerge."

This thirst for leadership, and resulting self-promotion, has come about because Republicans do not control the White House, so there is no obvious leader. And those in top Congressional leadership posts have not filled the void.

"The two things they had back in 1994 was an energetic, skillful leader in Newt Gingrich and a set of issues to run with," said Donald F. Kettl, a political scientist at the University of Wisconsin at Madison. "Right now they have neither."

But if no one is paying attention in this time of relative contentment, the jousting may be for naught. "Most people simply want to be left alone," said Senator Phil Gramm of Texas. "Leaders tend to emerge in periods of crisis. And I just don't think people have time for a leader right now."



On Page One: 1. Gary Bauer; 2. Jim Nicholson; 3. Gov. George E. Pataki of New York; 4. Lamar Alexander; 5. Ralph Reed; 6. Trent Lott; 7. Steve Forbes; 8. Dick Armey; 9. Pat Robertson; 10. Bill Kristol; 11. Former Education Secretary Bill Bennett; 12. Newt Gingrich; 13. Dan Quayle.

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A Land Giant is Stirring: Will Florida Ever Be the Same?

By DOUGLAS FRANTZ

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. REAL estate development in Florida conjures up visions of Eden gone awry. Over the last century, the state's subtropical environment has been battered by an onslaught of tourist attractions, billboards, strip shopping centers, beachfront condominiums and featureless subdivisions that have drained the wetlands and scarred the landscape. Planning has been haphazard and sometimes completely absent.

Now, the St. Joe Corporation, the quirky public company that is Florida's largest private landholder, insists that it intends to break with that pattern as it develops a million acres in the panhandle, some of the last pristine tracts in this state.

The stakes are high, both for Florida's future and for St. Joe shareholders — the latter primarily a duPont family trust that supports clinics for the elderly and disabled, though Wall Street, too, is beginning to take an interest in a company that it long could comfortably ignore.

For decades, St. Joe was an under-managed holding company with assets in timber, transportation and banking that fed the trust in dribs and drabs. But all that changed a year ago when Peter S. Rummell was hired away from the Walt Dis-

ney Company to become St. Joe's chief executive, chairman and in-house rabble-rouser.

"I felt a little like I'd stepped into a time warp," said Mr. Rummell, who was head of Disney's theme park and real estate development divisions. When he first asked for an overview of St. Joe's holdings, Mr. Rummell recalled, he was given a yellowed Esso gas-station map so old that it did not show Interstate 95, the main highway down Florida's east coast. Today, a large studio on the ground floor of St. Joe's headquarters here houses a research and development center with huge satellite photos delineating the company's land.

"You don't see this quantity of assets that have been maintained so conservatively for so long," Mr. Rummell said.

After a year spent assessing those assets and importing a team of outside managers, Mr. Rummell has begun to carry out an ambitious plan with implications that could ripple across Florida — and beyond.

In the coming decade, St. Joe intends to open up resort and residential development not on the east or west coasts of the state but along the panhandle, which despite its white-sand beaches on the Gulf of Mexico has lagged behind in growth and prosperity.

The company's holdings in the region include 30 miles of frontage on the gulf and 250 miles on inland wa-

terways and lakes. The centerpiece of the proposed development is a series of planned communities, resorts and retirement centers that would transform not only St. Joe's vast tracts but also the panhandle itself.

Rather than the high-rise beachfront condominiums and bland retirement villages that are the hallmarks of Florida, St. Joe wants to build places that are more walkable and human-scaled — shaped around the environment instead of ignoring or damaging it. The models are not Miami Beach or Fort Myers but the more recent communities of Seaside and Celebration. St. Joe's towns are intended, too, to reshape Florida's demographics, by appealing to families and job seekers, not just the retirees who have been the primary targets of developers in the past.

All this is risky, of course. Undeveloped land is the most volatile of real estate assets, and Merrill Lynch — which recently began following St. Joe — estimates that 35 percent of the company's value is in vacant land. So any significant downturn in the state or national economy could poke a big hole in Mr. Rummell's balloon.

Plus, there are good reasons that the panhandle has been slow to develop. Transportation into the region is weak, making it difficult to attract visitors beyond a day's drive away. There are few hospitals or clinics — vital for the second-home and retirement markets — and not enough of the good schools essential to attracting permanent residents.

But Mr. Rummell has assets beyond his own experience and St. Joe's vast acreage, which is only slightly smaller than the state of Delaware. The company's balance sheet is debt free. The trust has given him a green light to shake up St. Joe's stolid status quo. He has already made a key acquisition — a controlling interest in the Arvida Company, which built Boca Raton and many of Florida's more uncharacteristically charming planned communities and will build most of the houses on St. Joe's panhandle lands.

Roots in Rebellion

St. Joe may have been a sleepy business for decades, but Mr. Rummell is not its first rebel.

The company was founded by Alfred I. duPont, the black sheep of the Delaware family that grew rich selling gunpowder in World War I. He battled other family members for control of the business and caused a social ruckus in 1921 when, at 57, he married Jessie Ball, who was 21 years his junior.

But it was not social ostracism that drove Mr. duPont south; it was business. A cousin and rival, Pierre duPont, became Delaware's tax commissioner and promised to make the rich pay their fair share. When a tax deputy came calling to review Cousin Alfred's accounts, he was turned away.

"I'll be damned if I'm going to have Pierre going over my books," Alfred duPont snapped, according to a published family history. Instead, he transferred all his assets into Florida corporations and, with his bride, moved to Jacksonville in 1928.

While the rest of the country was enjoying prosperity that year, Florida was suffering from the effects of a hurricane and collapsed real estate prices. Mr. duPont, with a personal fortune of \$70 million to \$200 million, took advantage of the situation and bought large tracts of land for just a few dollars an acre, particularly in the panhandle.

In a single transaction in 1933, he bought 240,000 acres, including virtually the entire town of Port St. Joe on the gulf. The deal included two railroads, some telephone companies and a paper mill that eventually gave the whole enterprise its name: the St. Joe Paper Company.

Mr. duPont died in 1935, leaving the bulk of his holdings in trust for the benefit of his wife; after her death in 1970, the proceeds of the trust were designated to help disabled children and the elderly.

Through the trust, control of the company fell to Mr. duPont's brother-in-law, Edward Ball, who ruled with the firm hand of an autocrat. He



Peter S. Rummell, chief executive of the St. Joe Corporation.

added to St. Joe's land holdings and expanded its bank, Florida National, into the state's largest.

Mr. Ball acquired the Florida East Coast Railway Company, the historic line that runs from Jacksonville to Key West and defined migration to Florida's east coast.

Mr. Ball died in 1981, but control of the company remained with the Alfred I. duPont Testamentary Trust, which as recently as 1990 owned 88 percent of St. Joe. (Its holdings now amount to about 55 percent of the company.)

The beneficiary of the trust, the Nemours Foundation, was allotted 3 percent of the trust's market value each year to run clinics in Florida and Delaware.

Only in the early 1990's, after representatives of the trust, Florida officials and outside investors began to demand that it produce more income, did change begin to shake St. Joe.

To focus on real estate, the company put other assets up for sale, including the namesake pulp and paper mills, container plants and most of the phone business. A deal is pending for the Federal Government to buy a sugar plantation in the Everglades as part of a conservation program.

In 1996, the company was renamed the St. Joe Corporation, and a headhunter was hired to find someone to run it.

Real Estate Man Returns

Peter Rummell was 51 when St. Joe came knocking. As chairman of Walt Disney Imagineering, he oversaw the development of a wide range of Disney projects, from Euro Disney outside Paris to Celebration, the company's new planned community in central Florida. He had an especially strong relationship with Michael D. Eisner, the chairman of Disney.

Mr. Rummell started out as a developer in the early 1970's, working on Amelia Island Plantation near Jacksonville for the Sea Pines Company. He also worked for Arvida and spent two years as vice chairman of the Rockefeller Center Management Corporation in New York before returning in 1985 to Arvida, which had been acquired by Disney. He soon moved to the Disney side of the corporate aisle; Arvida was eventually sold.

At heart, though, Mr. Rummell is a real estate man, he says, and Disney is an entertainment company. So in January 1997 he accepted the invitation of the St. Joe board to try to reinvent the company — and real estate development in Florida.

Besides the acquisition of Arvida, his early moves have included deploying stock options and bonus incentives, previously unheard of at the staid St. Joe, to attract a new team of senior managers. Charles A. Ledsinger Jr. was brought in as chief financial officer from Harrah's Entertainment Inc.; he recently became president and chief operating officer. Two former Disney executives, Robert M. Rhodes and Michael F. Bayer, also took senior management positions.

Mr. Rummell got a good deal for himself, too. His base salary in 1997 was \$600,000, with a performance-based incentive bonus that added \$300,000. He also received \$5 million

worth of St. Joe stock to compensate him for the value of stock options he forfeited by leaving Disney. Plus, he received stock options that, if the company's stock rises an average of 10 percent a year for the next decade, would be worth \$123 million. (Since Mr. Rummell signed on, the stock is up about 60 percent; St. Joe shares ended the week at \$33.825 on the New York Stock Exchange.)

His immediate task, though, is to start enough real estate projects fast enough to satisfy Wall Street that St. Joe has the cash flow to be a good investment now, not just years from now when its big developments come on line.

Toward that end, the company, borrowing a page from Disney, has branched into the entertainment business. Its most significant deal is with the National Football League, to develop interactive entertainment centers that will include technology-based games, retail stores and restaurants in an atmosphere similar to that of a football stadium. Tentatively called NFLX, the first of the 7 to 10 ventures is expected to open late next year in New York, possibly in Times Square.

But the real test for St. Joe will be developing its hundreds of thousands of acres in northwest Florida over the coming decade in a way that provides long-term value for its shareholders and long-term benefits for the state.

Expanding a Beachhead

One model for what Mr. Rummell has in mind sits squarely in the midst of some of St. Joe's most valuable land. St. Joe did not build Seaside and will not duplicate it, but the company's plans are taking some of their inspiration from the 240-home village surrounded by St. Joe's panhandle real estate.

Seaside, about 20 miles west of Panama City, is the beachhead for neotraditional town planning. Probably no other 80-acre strip of land in America has been so scrutinized and analyzed in the last decade as its picturesque collection of homes, built since 1981.

A stroll through Seaside uncovers the real gold mine envisioned by St. Joe. It is largely a second-home community, and the signs outside most houses are hand-lettered with the names and hometowns of its residents: Atlanta; Memphis; New Orleans; Birmingham, Ala. These are the population centers, all within a day's drive, that St. Joe hopes will provide vacationers and second-home buyers for its first large development, tentatively called Seagrave.

"There is this wide arc that goes into Texas, up to Memphis and north of Atlanta, and the people within that arc are used to coming here," said Timothy D. Edmond, the Arvida vice president who is supervising the planning for Seagrave. "And, looking at Seaside, we know they have money to spend on second homes."

Seagrave has 1,400 feet of beautiful beach frontage on the gulf and 500 acres that wrap around Seaside. The first phase calls for a resort hotel more expensive and luxurious than anything in the region, some retail space and a beach club on the gulf side of the property. Vacation and retirement homes will follow on the other side of the road, winding along a freshwater lake and behind Sea-

side.

Master planning has already begun, and Mr. Edmond said the process of receiving governmental approvals was expected to be completed next year.

But that may be optimistic. Florida's development rules have become tougher in the last decade; here, as in other places transformed by breakneck growth, environmental concerns can cause delays in even the most environment-friendly projects.

"Some people don't like to see big, beautiful tracts of land developed," noted Paul F. Bryan, the Orlando-based president of LaSalle Partners Development, a unit of a Chicago real estate firm.

St. Joe's long-range plan is to get people to come to Seagrave for a vacation or convention, like what they see and decide to return, first in a vacation home and then as retirees. The theory is that once the place finds its center of gravity, services will follow that attract permanent residents.

Mr. Rummell acknowledges the work ahead. The region, for example, needs better medical services. "If you are 65 years old and you've started going to a cardiologist routinely," he said, "we have to make you comfortable that you can get quality care close to your home."

There are also plans to expand at least one runway at the nearby Panama City airport, which now can handle only short-hop aircraft, and discussions about a major feeder highway.

Local government is quite welcoming. Seagrave is in Walton County, a thousand square miles stretching from the Alabama border to the gulf. Except for the beachfront, the county is sparsely populated and generally eager for the jobs and prosperity promised by new development.

"A lot of the most valuable land has been purchased for preservation by the state, so it's off the tax rolls," said Tom Powell, executive director of the nonprofit Walton County Economic Development Council. "The county government realizes that its salvation is in the development of the remaining existing land."

Nowhere is the warmth of St. Joe's relationship with government more evident than southeast of Tallahassee, the state capital, where the company is planning Southwood, which it envisions as a neotraditional community of 12,000 people and 8,000 new homes on 3,200 acres of rolling land now covered with pine trees and dotted with lakes and ponds.

In a speech early this month in Tallahassee, Mr. Rummell offered free land for a future medical school under consideration by state legislators and promised to help improve roads in the surrounding county. "Others may build developments," he told the Economic Club of Florida. "We build towns."

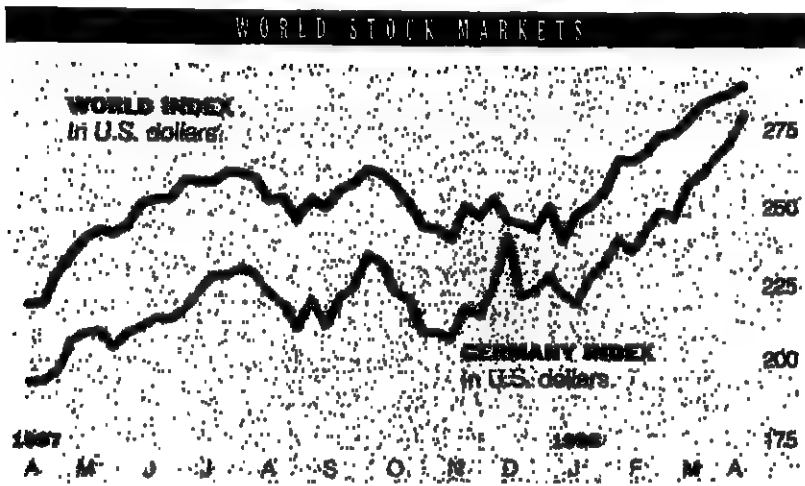
The first public hearing on the project is scheduled for July. Already, though, the company has been meeting regularly with state and local officials and citizens groups.

State officials praised the willingness of St. Joe management to negotiate over the most sensitive issues, including affordable housing — something that its predecessors never did in previous stabs at developing the land and a far cry from the days when Ed Ball dictated terms to Florida lawmakers.

"The old St. Joe categorically rejected providing affordable housing, and that's why they left town and never did the development," said Jim Murley, secretary of the Florida Department of Community Affairs. "The new management is doing education and housing and all the things that are important, not only for Southwood but for the region."

Mr. Rummell is convinced that there is money to be made in Florida with a kinder, gentler type of development. He says he does not foresee a Disney-like theme park or an Orlando-like megalopolis in western Florida. Instead, he envisions a series of towns and communities where people of all ages and economic means live in proximity.

"I think it's the right location at the right time," he said. "We can change the story of Florida development if we do it right."



Prepared by Goldman, Sachs & Co. using data derived from the Financial Times/Standard & Poor's Averages World Index, a measure of stock market performance. The FT indices are compiled jointly by The Financial Times Limited, Goldman, Sachs & Co. and Standard & Poor's, in conjunction with the Institute of Actuaries and Faculty of Actuaries.

Country	IN U.S. DOLLARS					IN LOCAL CURR.				
	Index	Week % Chg.	Week Rank	YTD % Chg.	YTD Rank	Index	Week % Chg.	Week Rank	YTD % Chg.	YTD Rank
Australia	215.20	1.5	15	7.5	21	3.57	217.85	6.6		
Austria	222.90	-0.5	25	17.6	15	1.56	209.92	18.9		
Belgium	320.83	3.3	8	28.1	8	2.41	296.68	27.8		
Brazil	264.13	2.6	10	10.8	20	1.86	553.81	13.1		
Britain	399.24	1.5	16	20.3	14	2.77	353.49	18.2		
Canada	243.21	-0.8	26	14.5	18	1.60	251.14	14.1		
Denmark	516.50	1.2	19	15.4	17	1.24	486.88	16.8		
Finland	390.98	1.9	14	40.4	4	1.99	452.76	42.2		
France	302.58	1.0	20	28.4	7	2.02	289.15	28.0		
Germany	284.65	3.5	7	24.1	11	1.22	288.98	25.4		
Hong Kong	341.67	1.4	17	-4.3	26	4.84	339.94	-4.3		
Indonesia	60.43	8.4	2	-8.5	27	2.24	300.30	34.8		
Ireland	171.05	0.2	23	28.8	5	1.85	525.29	32.3		
Italy	168.41	-1.3	28	43.1	3	1.10	225.85	45.4		
Japan	100.35	9.5	1	5.3	23	0.96	82.51	5.4		
Malaysia	204.80	5.4	4	24.6	9	2.42	285.52	15.9		
Mexico	1,641.41	0.4	22	-9.0	28	1.51	15,283.35	-4.0		
Netherlands	500.42	2.0	13	22.1	13	1.97	467.58	23.3		
New Zealand	74.52	0.9	21	-2.5	25	4.57	71.39	2.2		
Norway	340.21	2.1	12	6.5	22	1.80	348.17	8.9		
Philippines	100.36	3.9	6	26.5	6	1.09	188.81	19.7		
Singapore	225.95	5.1	5	0.4	24	1.84	185.70	-5.2		
South Africa	324.04	2.9	9	22.1	12	2.49	356.72	26.4		
Spain	392.54	1.3	18	44.4	2	1.81	458.46	48.1		
Sweden	584.76	2.6	11	24.5	10	1.72	679.93	23.3		
Switzerland	400.23	-0.2	24	17.4	16	1.03	374.79	21.6		
Thailand	28.11	5.8	3	45.6	1	6.92	43.36	20.2		
United States	453.81	-1.0	27	14.5	19	1.41	453.81	14.5		

COMPOSITE INDICES				
Index	Week % Chg.	Week Rank	YTD % Chg.	YTD Rank
Europe	358.52	1.4	24.0	1.87
Pacific Basin	110.99	7.7	4.8	1.81
Europe/Pacific	214.17	3.3	17.5	1.86
World	293.76	0.9	15.7	1.63

Source: Goldman, Sachs & Co. Exchange rates as of Friday's London close. © 1998 The Financial Times Ltd., Goldman, Sachs & Co. and Standard & Poor's

CURRENCIES				
Exchange rate	Friday	Last Friday	Week % Chg.	Year Ago
Japanese yen to the U.S. dollar	128.65	135.14	-4.81	125.88
German marks to the U.S. dollar	1.8228	1.8472	-1.41	1.7206
Canadian dollars to the U.S. dollar	1.4247	1.4194	+0.37	1.3981
U.S. dollars to the British pound	1.6730	1.6595	+1.04	1.6277

Source: Bloomberg Financial Markets; exchange rates as of Friday's New York close

UPS AND DOWNS

April 6-10: The Dow Reacts to History's Biggest Merger and Awaits This Week's Earnings

PRICES		
DOMESTIC EQUITIES		
Broad market	Down 1.07%	1,110.67
S. & P. 500 index		
Blue chips	Up 0.13%	8,994.86
Dow 30 industrials		
Small capitalization	Down 1.18%	480.04
Russell 2000 index		

DOMESTIC BONDS		
Treasuries	Down 0.55%	217.59
Ryan Labs. Total Return		
Municipals	Down 0.96%	123.00
Bond Buyer index		
Corporates	Down 0.55%	956.64
Merrill Lynch Master index		

AROUND THE WORLD		
European stocks	Up 1.44%	358.52
F.T.-Actuaries Europe		
Asian stocks	Up 7.73%	110.99
F.T.-Actuaries Pacific Basin		
Gold	Down 0.03%	3310.20
New York cash price		

Foreign indexes are given in dollar terms.

YIELDS		
BONDS		
Long bonds	5.88%	
30-year Treasuries	Up 9 basis pts	
Notes	5.48%	
2-year Treasuries	Up 8 basis pts.	
Municipals	5.27%	
Bono Buyer index	Up 7 basis pts	
90-DAY RELATIVE TREND	-80	
Change in basis points		
OTHER INVESTMENTS		
Money market funds	5.03%	
Taxable average	Down 2 basis pts	
Bank C.D.'s	4.97%	
1-year small savers	Unchanged	
Stocks	1.43%	
S & P 500 dividend yield	Up 1 b.p.	
100 basis points = 1 percentage point		

Sources: Bank Rate Monitor, Bloomberg Financial Markets, The Bond Buyer, DataStream, Goldman Sachs, IBC's Money Fund Report, Merrill Lynch, Standard & Poor's, Ryan Labs

The New York Times

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You Talking to Me?

Of course, it's amusing to hear the Mayor promise that the floggings will continue until everyone is civil, but it may be time to get past the joke and consider the serious question of whether a civility campaign puts this city in conflict with its own peculiar nature. Or more philosophically, whether under its brusque street theater, New York has a civic etiquette that, for all its loudness, is more humane than we generally allow ourselves to admit.

For generations, New York has touted rude the way California touts mellow. Like the deserts of Africa or the ice fields of Siberia, New York City challenges the human being's ability to adapt, not to mere extremes of weather, but to prehuman levels of noise, competition, aggression and speed. It is a place where all humankind seems to divide into two groups: the quick and the taxi-less.

Viewed against the backdrop of this tradition, the Mayor's pitch against jaywalking and noise and public incivility seems off-image. The decline in crime and a boom in the economy are fine. But a genteel New York sounds like a quixotic attempt to promote suburban quiescence in the known universe's vortex of urban hubbub. Besides, it is one thing to hear about our better angels from Abe Lincoln and quite another to hear it from a human hand grenade like Rudy Giuliani.

For those of us who actually reside in this real city, however, and not in its literary myth or some Hollywood backdrop, the Mayor's idea of improving the quality of life evokes a hope that someday we could wake to the gentle chimes of a neighboring church clock instead of car alarms steadily bleating in three-minute cycles. For anyone trying to push a baby stroller across one of the city's larger streets, the enforcement of the rules of the road for cars and bicycles might just succeed in taking Gotham out of the record books as the most dangerous city in the

world for defenseless pedestrians. Maybe the Mayor could even domesticate our "Road Warrior" limo drivers who block city streets and clog the grocery clerks who defiantly bag the seedless grapes under the six-packs.

Still, some human behavior will always be beyond the powers of the city's top hall monitor — even in his own halls. Take the shouting match last week when Giuliani aide Jake Menges graphically threatened to kill a school project favored by City Councilman Lloyd Henry. The problem, Mr. Menges shouted, was that Mr. Henry and another Council member, Stephen DiBrienza, had been rude to a new city commissioner who recently moved here from Wisconsin. Mr. DiBrienza's defense was that he was just yelling like any normal New York politician who must vent periodically to avoid blowing his boiler.

Mr. Giuliani has argued that the reason he is pushing for more civility in city matters is that he dealt with many of the more difficult issues in his first term. We endorse the manners blitzkrieg, but also hope the Mayor focuses on the continuing chronic needs like finding more jobs in poorer areas, soothing ethnic bruises in the neighborhoods and fixing the collapsing schools.

As a governing principle, civility has to be far more than a veneer of pleasantness or even the enforcement of another layer of quality-of-life laws. With its roots in the Latin word for city, civility is a grand term that means the ability of people to live together cheek by jowl, ceding some of their personal freedoms for the opportunity to joust with 7.5 million others in the greatest scrum in the history of human clustering. For that reason, even if the Mayor gets New Yorkers to obey all the rules, this will still be, so to speak, an unruly city. Our peculiar brand of civility allows it.

A Census of Botanical Risk

Reminders of the global threat to botanical diversity surround us, but we tend to think of them as disparate events rather than parts of a broad pattern. The forest fires in Indonesia and the Amazon seem unrelated to the spread of purple loosestrife, an invasive wetland plant, across the Northeastern United States. The appearance of a housing development on former oak savanna in California seems unconnected to the destruction of native hemlocks by a parasitic Asian insect called the woolly adelgid.

But each of these events yields the same result, the destruction of the plant life on which so much of human life depends, not only for the conversion of sunlight into food but also for many medicines and chemical compounds. The progressive loss of biodiversity has been well chronicled. Still, last week's report from the World Conservation Union — the first worldwide assessment of plant endangerment — was disheartening.

Despite repeated promises from world governments to make things better, the report notes, one of every eight plants in the world, and one of every three in the United States, is threatened with extinction. In raw numbers, that means nearly 34,000 species are threatened, which itself is surely an underestimate because reporting is far less detailed in some countries than in others, and because so many plant species remain unidentified and their status thus unknown. According to the conservation union — a coalition of scientific and environmental groups, including the New York Botanical Garden and the Smithsonian Institution — the main threats

to plant diversity are development, including logging and agriculture, and the invasion of non-native species that crowd out the native brand.

That, too, was already known, if not in quite so much detail. The big unknown is whether governments are prepared to do anything about it. The Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro in 1992 approved a biological diversity treaty aimed at reducing the rate of extinction of plant species. The treaty asked each nation to inventory biological resources and adopt a national conservation strategy. Few have done so. But 160 countries have at least ratified the treaty. The United States has not, largely because of Congressional fears that the treaty would allow others to meddle in America's natural resource policy or involve the United States in expensive projects to help poorer nations. Foot-dragging by the world's richest nation has done nothing to encourage others to get involved in the biodiversity issue.

There have been plenty of valiant private initiatives. To name one among many, the National Cancer Institute has guaranteed Malaysia part of the profits of any drug obtained from the Malaysian rain forests, a modest incentive to save those forests and the biological treasures within them. But given the sheer scale of the problem — one-third of the forests that existed 50 years ago, for example, have now disappeared — government involvement seems an absolute necessity, requiring the same commitment that led to the global warming treaty in Kyoto, Japan, last fall. Regrettably, the world does not seem to have the capacity to tackle more than one ecological crisis at a time.

Big Tobacco Is Right to Call Congress's Bluff

To the Editor:

By withdrawing from working with Congress on the tobacco bill, the tobacco manufacturers have put an end to Senator John McCain's and Congress's dishonest legislation (front page, April 9). The manufacturers have called Congress's bluff.

The Congressional tobacco proposal is a tax measure to finance the Federal budget under the guise of protecting children from smoking. Forcing tobacco companies to pay huge penalties and raising the price of cigarettes will not stop children from smoking.

If Congress is serious about stopping children from smoking, why doesn't it pass a law or encourage the states to do so, making smoking illegal until age 18 or 21 as for alcohol? This would sharply reduce childhood smoking just as it has done for childhood drinking.

JOHN R. BYERS
Scarsdale, N.Y., April 9, 1998

Taxing smokers to offset self-inflicted health care costs may be acceptable. But to discriminate against tens of millions of people because of their habit is not. Rather, it is nearly as unacceptable as discriminating against people because of their race, sex or religion. DANIEL B. JEFFS
Apple Valley, Calif., April 9, 1998

No Special Rights

To the Editor:

Jonathan Rauch (Op-Ed, April 10) misses an important point in his appeal for fairness toward the tobacco industry. This is not a negotiation.

The Government often taxes products in order to control consumption and raise revenues to offset the consequences of that consumption. Taxes are levied on gasoline in order to conserve energy and pay for roads and bridges. New taxes on cigarettes would reduce consumption and raise revenues to pay for the health care costs related directly to smoking.

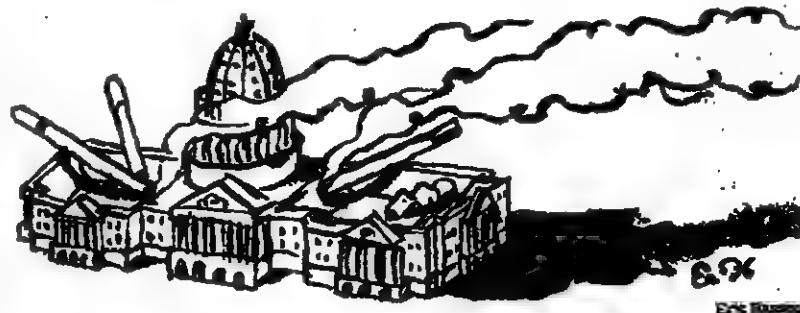
I see no reason why the Government needs the permission of the tobacco industry to do this.

Nor do I see any reason why an industry that has marketed to children, spent millions to increase the addictive nature of cigarettes, committed perjury and engaged in cover-ups should be granted any special rights like immunity from class-action lawsuits. ROBERT NOLAN
Croton-on-Hudson, N.Y., April 10, 1998

A Political Frenzy

To the Editor:

Re "The Tobacco Industry's Defiance" (editorial, April 9): Your scathing editorial is corroborating evidence of national discrimination against smokers. A simple movement to ban smoking in certain places has escalated to political frenzy, branding a class of people, holding them up to public hatred and ridicule, and punishing them with outrageous taxation.



Let Juries Decide Whether Lie Detectors Lie

To the Editor:

William Safire (column, April 6) praises the recent decision of the United States Supreme Court upholding a military judge's decision to refuse to admit a defendant's polygraph results. In response to claims that polygraph evidence may be accurate 70 percent of the time, Mr. Safire suggests "that argues that the ruin of even 3 innocents in 10... is acceptable error."

The fallibility of polygraphs is no more reason to exclude their results at every trial than is the well-documented fallibility of eyewitness identifications a reason to prohibit such testimony in all cases. No one has proposed that the lie detector replace the jury as the finder of fact.

On the contrary, the defendant on trial in United States v. Scheffer simply wanted his jurors to have the same opportunity to consider his having passed a lie detector test as they had to consider his having failed a drug test. SHERRY F. COLS
Newark, April 6, 1998

The writer is an associate professor at Rutgers Law School.

Too Narrow a Ruling

To the Editor:

William Safire (column, April 6) may give readers the false impression that the Supreme Court is so skeptical about lie detectors as to hold the tests categorically inadmissible.

While that would be good news, it is not the case. The Court merely rejected the defendant's challenge to a rule of evidence that prohibited his introduction of his own test results. And the rule applied only to federal courts.

Since no such rule exists in the Federal Rules of Evidence (applicable in all other civil and criminal cases), the question of when polygraph results are admissible is still a largely open question, except for the prohibition of the Government's use of such results against a nonconsenting defendant. ROY M. SOBESON
Atlanta, April 7, 1998

The writer teaches evidence at the Georgia State University College of Law.

Bad Schools, Not Taxes, Push Middle Class Away

To the Editor:

The April 6 letters on the middle class being driven out of New York City blamed a symptom — housing costs — instead of the disease: poor public schools.

As an apartment manager I have the inside track on occasional bargain rentals, but I recently moved my family to New Jersey for the advantages of housing cost and quality relative to education cost and quality.

Families earning between \$30,000 and \$125,000 can't live in market-rate apartments below 96th Street and also pay for private schools. If they were comfortable with the public schools and wanted to stay in Manhattan, they could stay. Will they trade off living

space for location? Yes. Will they trade their children's future for it? No. PAUL BRENSHLER
New York, April 7, 1998

To the Editor:

You ask, "Why do the schools on the Zuni reservation have so little money for maintenance and repairs that they have had to lock up the swimming pool?" (news article, April 8).

The manner in which schools spend taxpayer money is dispiriting to those of us from poor communities who still enjoyed competent, if not gloriously appointed, public schools during that long-past era, when taxes were low and students were required to cover textbooks to preserve them for future classes.

Here in California, in addition to millions of dollars in taxes, the lottery has contributed \$9 billion since 1985 to 1,100 school districts, and yet there is nothing in the way of student performance to show for it, and nothing but bleeding from the Los Angeles Unified School District, where a stunningly high percentage of teachers and administrators send their own children to private schools. Schools continue to teach us adult taxpayers something every day: They have no sense of priority. GREGORY SOLMAN
Los Angeles, April 8, 1998

Editorial Observer/BRENT STAPLES

The Quota Bashers Come In From the Cold

California's decision to outlaw the use of race in public college admissions was widely viewed as a death sentence for affirmative action. But Proposition 209 may actually have saved its life. The abruptly diminished black and Latino enrollment in California has raised the specter of "white-outs" not just on campus but in the professions and in the next generation of state leadership. Californians are looking for ways to undo the mess and other states have been frightened into slowing down. A recent survey by The Chronicle of Higher Education finds legislatures from South Carolina to South Dakota backpedaling, furiously from California-style proposals. Texas has ordered its university to accept any student who finishes in the top 10 percent of a public high school.

The emerging consensus is that special admissions measures must remain intact until urban schools do better by black and brown students, who currently have little chance of first-rate preparation for college. This realization has taken root even among the neoconservatives who started the war against affirmative action 20 years ago. The change was

Grumpy admissions that the U.S. needs affirmative action.

on display in the March issue of *Commentary*, which devoted much of the issue to affirmative action and carried several articles by writers who reluctantly supported measures that increase minority participation. Some neocons now argue that race should be taken into account in undergraduate admissions, but not beyond. The distinguished hard-liner James Q. Wilson grudgingly accepts affirmative action at public colleges, but proscribes it for it in police and fire departments, arguing that these agencies must be racially representative to work.

The sociologist Nathan Glazer has had a startling change of heart. His 1975 book "Affirmative Discrimination" served as the bible of neoconservative thought on the subject. Twenty years ago, Mr. Glazer argued that taking race into account in hiring and college admissions was morally

wrong and socially corrosive. But his most recent book, "We Are All Multiculturalists Now," and subsequent essays in *Commentary* and *The New Republic* find this principle of the intellectual right transformed. He now argues that failure to integrate institutions that have become the gateways to wealth and power would "undermine the legitimacy of American Democracy." This was clear enough to the rest of the country 20 years ago. But Mr. Glazer says he accepted the idea only when the presumption that African-Americans would soon be absorbed by the mainstream — and afforded equal opportunity at school — proved false.

Mr. Glazer has changed his mind on affirmative action, but clings to the rhetorical tic that poisoned the debate in the first place. He insists on speaking of it as a form of discrimination rather than as a measure that enhances minority access and the health of the body politic. Californians killed affirmative action only because it was pitched to them as discrimination. But the whitening of the university has revealed this as a bankrupt formulation.

Mr. Glazer's insistence that Amer-

icans on the whole are massively hostile to affirmative action is clearly overstated. Women — who make up a slight majority of the electorate and benefit heavily from Federal set-asides — like it a great deal.

In truth, most Americans prefer multicultural environments, including schools, workplaces, movies and television shows. Elite universities have made diversity a prominent selling point and are unlikely to give it up, no matter what the public colleges do. The same impulse is thriving even at *Commentary*, whose recent issue featured more black writers than once would have appeared in the course of a dozen issues.

Mr. Glazer's change of heart has created fissures among the neoconservatives. No doubt the most zealous of them will shake their canes at affirmative action even unto the grave. But the most striking feature of the debate is that the impulse toward diversity — and by extension, toward affirmative action — is a mainstream impulse, endorsed in varying degrees even by conservatives who once saw it as the embodiment of evil.

Spreading the Blame

To the Editor:

Re "The Tobacco Industry's Defiance" (editorial, April 9): If its cost savings you want, try focusing on the sugar industry, certainly as blame-worthy in the scourge of diabetes as cigarettes are in cancer. If it's the saving of lives you want, try focusing on the liquor industry. Drunks get into cars and kill innocent people. Cigarette smokers don't.

I gave up cigarettes in 1963 when the first Surgeon General's report on smoking was issued. But I have always disliked bullies, which is what the anti-cigarette lobby has become. Except for a few curbs — nonsmoking public areas for one — we should assume that smokers are entitled to make their own mistakes, without class-action payments based on spurious arguments about hopeless addictions. LORRAINE HOPKINS
Providence, R.I., April 9, 1998

Make Tobacco Illegal

To the Editor:

Re "The Tobacco Industry's Defiance" (editorial, April 9): If tobacco is such a horrible product, why don't you advocate outlawing it?

Firearms kill far fewer people each year than tobacco, but you would outlaw guns in a heartbeat if the opportunity arose.

The only logical conclusion is that you are disingenuous when you say that the purpose of the tobacco extortion negotiations is "to protect public health and curb smoking among youths." What you are really after is the tobacco company loot with which to finance a long, expensive agenda of liberal pet projects that the taxpayers are no longer willing to subsidize. STAN KULP
Sugar Land, Tex., April 9, 1998

Power and Harassment

To the Editor:

It was not my "hypothesis," nor is it now, that "there was no such thing as consensual sex between a man with power and a woman without power" (Week in Review, April 5). Neither sex nor anything else between two people can be presumed freely or meaningfully chosen when one person has power over another. Yet some people want sex across power lines. They consent to it. Stop inventing witches to burn.

Michelle Wildgen, whom I was co-counsel in the 1986 Supreme Court case that established that "hostile environment" sexual harassment is sex discrimination, did not have a "long and complicated sexual relationship" with her perpetrator — unless you count the two and a half years of sexual assault she claimed.

Now who is confusing sex and rape? CATHERINE A. MACKINNON
Chicago, April 7, 1998

The writer is a professor of law at the University of Michigan.

Crimes of sexual violence are finally being recognized by the international community as serious crimes on par with torture, as Tina Rosenberg points out (Editorial Observer, April 5).

In Rome this summer, countries will have a historic opportunity to codify these advances when they finalize a treaty forming the International Criminal Court.

In the draft treaty, rape, sexual slavery, enforced prostitution, enforced pregnancy, enforced sterilization and other gender violence are treated as breaches of international humanitarian law. However, some delegations are intent upon undermining this language. DONNA K. AXEL
KATHERINE HALL MARTINEZ
New York, April 8, 1998

The writers are, respectively, projects' coordinator, Women's Caucus on the International Criminal Court, and a staff attorney, Center for Reproductive Law and Policy.

How Diversity Helps

To the Editor:

An April 7 letter on affirmative action cited a decade-old University of California study to argue that the affirmative-action policy at the University of California resulted in a revolving door for African-American and Hispanic students. But recent studies from the University of California at Berkeley's Office of Student Research paint a different picture.

The six-year graduation rate rose from 68 percent for the predominantly white entering class in 1981 to 80 percent for the more diverse 1990 class. In that time, the number of freshman African-American students increased by 32 percent and Chicano students by 26 percent.

In 1991, when the entering class was 43 percent Chicano, 55 percent of those students graduated in six years. Chicanos made up 12.1 percent of the 1990 freshman class; their six-year graduation rate rose to 87 percent.

The six-year rate for African-American students went from 31 percent to 62 percent in the same period. GENARO M. PADILLA
Berkeley, Calif., April 7, 1998

The writer is vice chancellor for undergraduate affairs at the University of California at Berkeley.

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Liberties

MAUREEN DOWD

Madly, Truly, Deeply

WASHINGTON
We had not originally thought of Bill and Monica as a great literary couple.

The match, which began over pizza during the 1995 Government shutdown, seemed more basic than that. William Ginsburg, after all, dubbed their meetings "interaction" by "colleagues."

But we must look anew at the literary underpinnings of the fateful pairing of the Intern and the President. Kenneth Starr's snoopfest has now devolved to checking into Ms. Lewinsky's purchases at two Washington bookstores, Barnes & Noble and Kramerbooks.

The prosecutor's invasions of privacy have been creepy, but this one was chilling. I mean, we've all given books to crushies, and who would want those books examined by a grand jury? Would we really want to see the names Khalil Gibran, Anais Nin or Robert James Waller next to ours on the front page?

It is rumored that the two masterpieces that interest Mr. Starr because he thinks Ms. Lewinsky might have bestowed them on Mr. Clinton are "Vox," a smarmy novel about phone sex by Nicholson Baker, and "The Notebook," a syrupy Southern tear-jerker about eternal love by Nicholas Sparks.

But before we judge Monica's literary taste too harshly, we must remember that the President started the exchange of lush, overwrought volumes when he gave her a copy of Walt Whitman's "Leaves of Grass" (Mr. Clinton apparently gave the book of poems to many people, including Hillary Rodham on one of their first dates. Whoops!).

I must admit that it is amusing to think of the prissy Independent Counsel, who attended Bible College and who still reads the Bible and sings hymns when he jogs, poring over the raunchy, heavy-breathing phone exchanges in "Vox."

How will poor Mr. Starr ever make it through all the "ooohs" and "ahhs"? I blush to think of the holy roller looking for evidence on page 121, which tells of a video called "Pleasure So Deep."

I even blush to think of the President...

Throwing the book at Clinton.

dent getting "Vox." (But, then again, better this one than Mr. Baker's other graphic novel, "The Fermata," about a man who stops time in order to grope women.) Mr. Clinton, after all, has such diligent reading habits, biographies of Rutherford B. Hayes, Lincoln and God. These tomes don't have Mr. Baker's steamy dialogue about white terry-cloth bathrobes and lines like: "I need to know secrets and have secrets and keep secrets."

Ms. Lewinsky's choice of "The Notebook" seems to buttress the testimony of her friends who said she was hopelessly smitten with the Big He, as she and Linda Tripp referred to Mr. Clinton on the notorious tapes.

It is easy to see why Monica was so taken with the sappy story of *Alfie* and Noah, star-crossed lovers whose *Romeo-and-Juliet* saga spans 50 years. A review in *The Mount Airy Gazette* called it "a book for everyone who has ever loved or been loved, or dreamed of loving madly, truly, deeply... even the most jaded reader will be convinced that everlasting love exists."

With her high school romantic longings, Monica must have loved lines like, "She was the one he could spend the rest of his life looking for but never find again," or this one, which could have been a caption for those rope-line clinches: "She saw in his eyes that he knew she was thinking about him. She liked the fact that he knew it, and she hoped he had been thinking about her as well."

Best of all, the book even offered a coded message: a snippet from the book the President had given her, "Leaves of Grass."

Noah talks about how he carried the Whitman book with him throughout the war. "It had even taken a bullet for him once. He rubbed the cover, dusting it off just a little. Then he left the book open randomly and read the words in front of him:

This is thy hour O Soul, thy free flight into the wordless, Away from books, away from art, the day erased, the lesson done, Thine fully forth emerging, silent, gazing, pondering the themes thou lovest best, Night, sleep, death and the stars."

Mr. Starr may never get his hands on Ms. Lewinsky's book receipts. The bookstores are stubbornly fighting him and Judge Norma Holloway Johnson has told him he must demonstrate a "compelling" reason. Whoever said that literature is not important in American life?



Good Fortune in Belfast

By Nuala O'Faolain

TBELFAST, Northern Ireland here is a small, municipal, open-air zoo high on the hill that rises above Belfast. Its gentle persistence up there, through all the years of the Troubles, says something about the nature of the Northern Ireland conflict. The animals were never for a moment neglected, much less abandoned, as they have been in wars elsewhere.

Even at the worst, when car bombs were wreaking havoc in the city below, and hundreds of people were being killed each year — and killed, often, in ways which showed the perpetrators quite lost to tactical reasoning as well as dead to the claims of humanity — the sturdy civic fabric of the province never gave way. You could almost everywhere and at all times post a letter or order a bouquet of flowers. You could always take the children to the zoo, and buy an ice cream and stroll among the mild-eyed antelope who live on the hill, and hear the ducks compete with the clappers of the British Army helicopters as they lazily quartered the sky.

Looking down from there, this week, the parameters of the present political situation presented themselves in physical form. One, out on the leafy edges of the city, is Stormont Castle. In it, George Mitchell, the former American Senator who is chairman of the peace talks, has brought one of the most complex negotiating sessions in contemporary history to fragile agreement. The Stormont talks were made possible in the first place by the Irish Republican Army cease-fires, which were an astonishing instance of a group arriving at a point where it could stand outside its own purpose and methods, and change its direction.

Talking began. Pressed by the ad-

Nuala O'Faolain, a columnist for *The Irish Times*, is the author of "Are You Somebody: The Accidental Memoir of a Dublin Woman."

Protecting the Press

By Thomas F. McLarty 3d

Imagine going to work each day knowing that a job well done could end your life. You change your children's schools, hire a bodyguard and drive to work with one eye on the rearview mirror. This sounds like a James Bond movie, but it's reality for many journalists in Latin America and the Caribbean, where reporters are often independent, front-line soldiers in both the battle against drugs and corruption and the struggle to deepen democracy.

Since 1988, almost 200 journalists in the Americas have given their lives in pursuit of a story. Thousands more have been threatened, thrown in prison or censored. Who is hurt by these abuses? It is not only journalists. When a reporter is murdered or intimidated, democracy is wounded. Freedom of the press is the right of citizens to have information, as well as the right to print it, and all citizens suffer when speech is suppressed.

Journalists have advanced the cause of democracy and accountability in Latin America by exposing corruption, pursuing criminals and supporting the democratic process. One investigation uncovered \$50 million in the bank account of a South American legislator. When asked about his newly acquired wealth, the gentleman awkwardly proclaimed, "I won the lottery — 24,000 times."

Our Administration remains committed to the President and special envoy for the Americas.

ministrations in the United States, the United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland, and guided by an adroit international cadre of civil servants and diplomats, the political class in Northern Ireland — which for the many years of direct rule from Britain has had power without responsibility — at last justified its existence. New political arrangements — modern elements in a culture itself fast modernizing — have been proposed. To arrive even at mere proposals, which must be further endorsed, is like breaking out of a duagook. It is like the coming of

There's nothing like prosperity to foster peace.

this sweet spring, after the long, gray winter.

But Stormont is a privileged place on the far horizon. Directly below the zoo you can see a second parameter, the bleak and embattled streets of Northern Belfast. And there, a huge new structure is rising, this very week. It is a so-called "peace line" — an enormous wall, aimed at keeping rival sectarian gangs apart. It is the first new wall in Belfast for three years. It says, louder than words, that institutional change is all very well, but the passions of the people have not changed. As will provocative Orange marches later this year. As will continuing maverick terrorist acts from extremist republican and loyalist factions. The ancient hatreds are just below the surface.

Northern Ireland is, nevertheless, less at war today than at any time for the last 30 years. Yet that isn't because of the talks. It turned out that the opposite state to war was not formal peace, but informal prosperity. When no one was looking, the consolations of the consumer culture crept in to Northern Ireland, and flourished. Looking down on Belfast now, the most striking things you see

are the stunning new Waterfront Hall in its culture piazza beside the Lagan River, and the multimillion-dollar Hilton hotel nearing completion beside it. There are jobs down there in the city. There is money.

The old passions haven't gone away. Deep down, this is not a normal place. But a pleasant life is perfectly possible. Depths don't have to be probed. The young eat sundaes in the new Häagen-Dazs patisserie, and they shop in funky boutiques and they holiday on the beaches of the Mediterranean along with all the other young Europeans. If they come to feel that their respective identities are honored in the new political dispensation, fewer and fewer of them will consider the differences between them worth killing for.

You know, looking down on Belfast, that there are explosives and guns down there. Lots of them, stashed in basements and garages. But it is possible to think, in the sunlit air, among the zoo's tidy flower beds and lawns, with the animals in innocent coexistence all around, that there can be such a thing as weapons that are not used. All wars humankind have known have had a moment which was the beginning of the end.

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THE ARTS

Anne-Sophie Mutter Climbs a Mountain Named Beethoven

By JAMES R. OESTREICH

WHETHER decreed that you can't have it both ways evidently failed to tell the superbly gifted German violinist Anne-Sophie Mutter.

The more Ms. Mutter trades on a glamorous image, it seems, the more surely she is recognized for her essential seriousness as an artist and a person. That seriousness, though well established by now, still catches newcomers by surprise and is therefore played up all the more whenever she is spoken of or written about.

In this case, however, serious does not mean sober, and Ms. Mutter seems to relish the game, playing on public perception as deftly as if it were one of her two Stradivarius instruments. Merely to raise the question of image in conversation is to stand accused by her — in the most charming terms, to be sure — of a lack of seriousness.

Yet even as she protests, the image-mongering persists. Here is a luxurious booklet promoting her current yearlong venture, "Beethoven: Face to Face," laced with alluring full-page photographs of Ms. Mutter. Beethoven is occasionally represented as a glowering presence by busts or by his death mask. Ms. Mutter's collaborator, Lambert Orkis, an American pianist, brings up the rear.

And Ms. Mutter will in all likelihood carry that image on stage at Carnegie Hall on Tuesday evening, though the performances will be entirely business, and a lot of it. Ms. Mutter and Mr. Orkis will play no fewer than 5 of Beethoven's 10 violin sonatas; the rest will follow on April 22 and 30.

That unusually weighty first program, a solid two hours of substantial music, set against an unusually short final program of only two works, results from the players' decision to present this body of music not only in chronological order but also in coherent stylistic groupings, without regard to physical ease of performance or to audience comfort.

"The wonderful thing about playing these sonatas in the composed order is that you really get into the right state of mind," Ms. Mutter said recently, speaking in fluent English from her office in Munich. "In the Sonata No. 10, for example, after playing all nine of the others, you are physically stressed, and

therefore you have the peace of mind, the tranquility you need for the last sonata. It's like climbing the mountain for real, not just faking that you did it when you actually got there by helicopter."

By now, the formula is well tested. Ms. Mutter and Mr. Orkis, who have worked together for a decade, have been performing these Beethoven concerts, singly or as a complete cycle, on tour since January, and they are scheduled to continue until December, ending with a program at the Beethovenhaus in Bonn on Dec. 17, the anniversary of the master's baptism in 1770.

Much can happen in a year, of course, and some of it already has. Deutsche Grammophon was to have recorded part of the cycle in Berlin in February and the rest in Carnegie Hall, but for a variety of reasons, all of the recording has been put off until August, in Wiesbaden, Germany.

More serious, Mr. Orkis fell last month in Valencia, Spain, and broke his right foot. The Valencia concert and another in Amsterdam were rescheduled. The recital on Tuesday will be the players' first since the accident. Mr. Orkis will appear with a cast on his right foot and work the sustaining pedal with his left.

Any problems should be minor, since Mr. Orkis, who also plays period instruments, makes limited use of the pedal. (Ms. Mutter, likewise, has reined in her vibrato in working with him.) Still, might the unexpected crimp in the schedule make it more difficult for the players to sustain intensity?

"My intensity I maintain in any circumstances," Ms. Mutter said with a hearty laugh. "It is just the opposite that is sometimes a problem."

"Intense" may indeed be the best single word to describe the 34-year-old Ms. Mutter, both personally and artistically, and it is one that she often uses herself.

"Poor man," she joked, when it was pointed out that an English reviewer had found her Deutsche Grammophon recording of Sarasate's "Carmen Fantasy" and other supposedly light pieces, overpowering. "The singer of Carmen is a very intense woman. Maybe a woman with whom some men cannot deal, but that doesn't make her too intense."

Musically, at least, some of Ms. Mutter's intensity seems to derive from time spent in her teens and



Violinist Anne-Sophie Mutter, 34, is to play a solid two hours of Beethoven this week.

early 20's as a protégée of the Austrian conductor Herbert von Karajan.

"What still fills me with enormous admiration for Karajan is the cruelty of his rehearsal," she said. "By cruelty I mean the precision and the absolute will and determination to be better than the last time. It was incredibly touching to see this man, who was not very young anymore, going on stage at 10 o'clock in the morning and rehearsing the piece the orchestra had played so gloriously the evening before. No body would have thought there was anything you could possibly do better, and he started again from scratch."

MR. ORKIS, speaking from his home in Arlington, Va., appeared altogether more relaxed in temperament. He evidently shares Ms. Mut-

ter's work ethic, however, and to hear him tell it, she does her mentor proud.

"She always wants to work on these pieces," he said. "We have long rehearsals, and by the time we get to Vienna in December, I'm quite sure we'll still be rehearsing as much as we did for the first concert. There's something to be said for this endless polishing. What comes to mind is Michelangelo and the Pietà, for example, how he would be on his way to something else and go by and give it a few more polishes. It's never quite finished. That's the beauty of this music."

A year of Beethoven and little else comes as a bit of surprise from Ms. Mutter, who has dedicated much of her work in recent years to contemporary music, playing works by Witold Lutoslawski, Norbert Morat, Wolfgang Rihm and others. Deutsche Grammophon has just released

her recording of Krzysztof Penderecki's Second Violin Concerto, "Metamorphosen," with the composer conducting the London Symphony Orchestra, and she awaits new works from André Previn, Pierre Boulez and Sofia Gubaidulina.

But the only constant in Ms. Mutter's career has been change: more properly, growth. When she first came to international attention in those Karajan years, she was blessed with a pure and beautiful tone, one on which many another performer might have coasted through a lucrative career. Instead, she kept searching, expanding her repertoire and technique, looking for new modes of expression.

"I followed her in those early years, but her playing today has nothing to do with her childhood," said Kurt Masur, who led the New York Philharmonic in Ms. Mutter's recording of the Brahms Violin Con-

certo last year. "She is not only serious but deeply profound. Very few people could do what she does in Beethoven and Brahms, not just playing it but bringing a depth of philosophy to understand what these composers wanted to tell us. And yet there is still a kind of innocence in her playing."

Ms. Mutter's questing style is evident in that Brahms recording, as it has been in her recent performances of the work. She attributes it largely to her work in contemporary music.

"It brought to me a very deep interest in analyzing a score and a more thorough understanding of reading a score," she said. "Because when you have to learn a completely new piece, a foreign language for which you have nearly no clue at all, you have to be much more precise in your research than you would in approaching a style period with which you have grown up. There just seems to be much more need to find out, to be curious, to analyze what the structure is. Much of what we have grown up with we don't analyze anymore. We don't put question marks."

MR. MASUR cited, too, the deepening effect personal difficulties may have had on Ms. Mutter's musical interpretations.

Detlef Wunderlich, Karajan's former lawyer whom she married in 1989, died in 1995, leaving her with two young children. Ms. Mutter guards her private life closely, though she did note with delight that she recently discovered her 6-year-old daughter, Arabella, dancing to the Berg Violin Concerto.

So what comes after Beethoven? More sharp turns. Ms. Mutter plans a program of song and dance anchored by the new Previn piece next year. And for 2000 she plans a five-program retrospective of the musical 20th century, complete with a new sonata by Mr. Penderecki.

She also wants to become involved in a piano trio, though she has yet to find the right cellist. She has high standards, having worked extensively with Mstislav Rostropovich.

"It's incredible the energy Rostropovich still has at 71," she said. "It's obviously something he was born with, but it's also something which is essential to his playing and essential to music altogether. If you don't burn from both ends, then why do it? Why bother?"

An Insular World on Film

By LAURIE GOODSTEIN

AS he was preparing to make the film "A Price Above Rubies," Boaz Yakin returned to the yeshiva on the Upper West Side of Manhattan, where he had been a student from kindergarten through the ninth grade, to seek advice from a rabbi who had been one of his teachers. Mr. Yakin wanted to be sure that every detail in his movie about Hasidic Jews was authentic.

"What kind of film are you making?" the rabbi asked. "Do you remember me in fourth grade?" Mr. Yakin, 32, responded. "Well, I haven't changed."

Give him credit for honesty. "A Price Above Rubies" has stirred up about as much trouble as Mr. Yakin says he caused as a fourth grader at the yeshiva. While this complex film received a warm reaction at the Sundance Film Festival in January and many favorable reviews in the secular press after it opened a couple of weeks ago, it has struck some Orthodox Jews as a mean-spirited portrayal of Hasidism, an insular world rarely seen in feature films.

"A Price Above Rubies" is the second movie Mr. Yakin has written and directed and the second to be controversial: the first was "Fresh" (1994), about a black child who is caught up in drug dealing and violence. The new film stars Renée Zellweger as Sonia Horowitz, a young Hasidic woman who is swept into marriage and motherhood in her Hasidic community in Brooklyn only to realize that she feels stifled and estranged. She is haunted by the specter of her dead brother, Yossi, whom she adored as a child and lost, and who represents the perfect love she seeks as an adult.

Propelled on a troubled search for passion and independence, Sonia is abetted by a brother-in-law who gives her license to travel in the secular world by hiring her to be a buyer for his jewelry business. But he also demands sex in return. After Sonia becomes enchanted by the romantic artistry of a jewelry maker who happens to be a sensitive young Puerto Rican man, she is banished from her home and eventually finds a new life far from her roots.

For all of Mr. Yakin's attention to authenticity, "A Price Above Rubies" has been denounced as offensive and unrealistic by several Jewish voices. In his column in The Jewish Press, an Orthodox weekly, Steve Waiz called the film "an abomination." On his WABC radio program, and in an interview later, Edward I. Koch, the former New York City



Julianna Margulies, left, and Renée Zellweger as Hasidic women in "A Price Above Rubies."

Mayor, denounced the film as "anti-Semitic" and something that "Nazis would have liked."

New York City's Hasidim have been silent, and because Hasids rarely go to the movies, it is unlikely that many will see the film. But State Assemblyman Dov Hikind, an Orthodox Jew whose district includes Borough Park in Brooklyn, where some of "A Price Above Rubies" was filmed, said he was speaking out against the movie, which he had seen, because it depicted Hasidic Jews as "people without feelings, who don't know how to love, to show emotion."

Mr. Hikind listed other ways in which he believed the film was offensive: the movie's assertion that half the Hasidic women in Brooklyn are running cash businesses on the side; the portrayal of a misguided rabbi and marriage counselor who tells Sonia and her husband that prayer will solve their problems, and a glimpse of a mikveh, or ritual bath, that makes it look frightening.

"I'm not objecting to a line in the film; I'm objecting to the whole thing," Mr. Hikind said in an interview. "Only a Jew would be able to do this kind of a film."

In this, he is probably right. Mr. Yakin says that both his intimacy with Orthodoxy and his suspicion of it — and his dislike of any organized religion or culture that he considers rigid or close-minded — were nurtured in that yeshiva on the Upper West Side. He recalls that when he was about 8 years old, he and his best friend challenged the Genesis creation story so often in class that the principal staged a re-creation of the Scopes trial in an effort to silence the two heretics.

"A Price Above Rubies" is really about the difficulty of being an individual, with specific passions and desires, in a group that doesn't have

much room for that," Mr. Yakin said. "I think it's difficult in any conservative and tight-knit society to be different. And there are definitely criticisms in the film about a male-dominated patriarchal society. I don't shy away from that at all. I think raising questions about that is healthy."

Mr. Yakin is the son of artistic-minded parents who left Israel, studied mime in Paris with Marcel Marceau and settled in New York; they teach movement at the Juilliard School. His parents are not religious, he says, but sent him to yeshiva because they wanted their son to learn Hebrew and Jewish culture. After he sold his first screenplay as a sophomore at New York University, he quit school and moved to Hollywood. Well before he turned 30, he had written a string of screenplays. Then came "Fresh," which, like "A Price Above Rubies," was applauded by many critics and denounced by some people from the neighborhoods it depicted.

Certainly in "A Price Above Rubies," Mr. Yakin chose his cast according to acting experience, not firsthand knowledge of Orthodox Judaism. Julianna Margulies of the television show "E.R." plays Sonia's sister-in-law Rachel, who at first tries to integrate Sonia into the family. The British actor, Christopher Eccleston ("Jude"), is cast as Sender, the slimy brother-in-law. And Glenn Fitzgerald ("The Ice Storm") plays Sonia's gentle and bewildered husband, Mendel, the Torah scholar.

Ms. Zellweger accepted her role in "A Price Above Rubies" fresh from her success playing the woman who wins Tom Cruise in "Jerry Maguire." An Episcopalian from Katy, Tex., she says that the idea of portraying Sonia intrigued her because "I didn't think I could do it," mostly because the Hasidic culture and the predicaments faced by the character were so foreign to her.

The Hasidim, said Ms. Zellweger, "have a shared value system, they aspire to lead very pure and purposeful lives, and there's a balance to it. The men play these roles, and the women play other roles."

But she continued, "at first you ask, How could a woman stay there?"

"They are very smart women. Even innately, wouldn't you feel oppressed? But as I became more familiar with it, I could see how the women took pride in their role in that society. They nurture the family. They basically are the foundation of the family, and that's admirable. It's not easy, putting everyone's needs before yours. It's great if you can do that. Would it work for me? No." □

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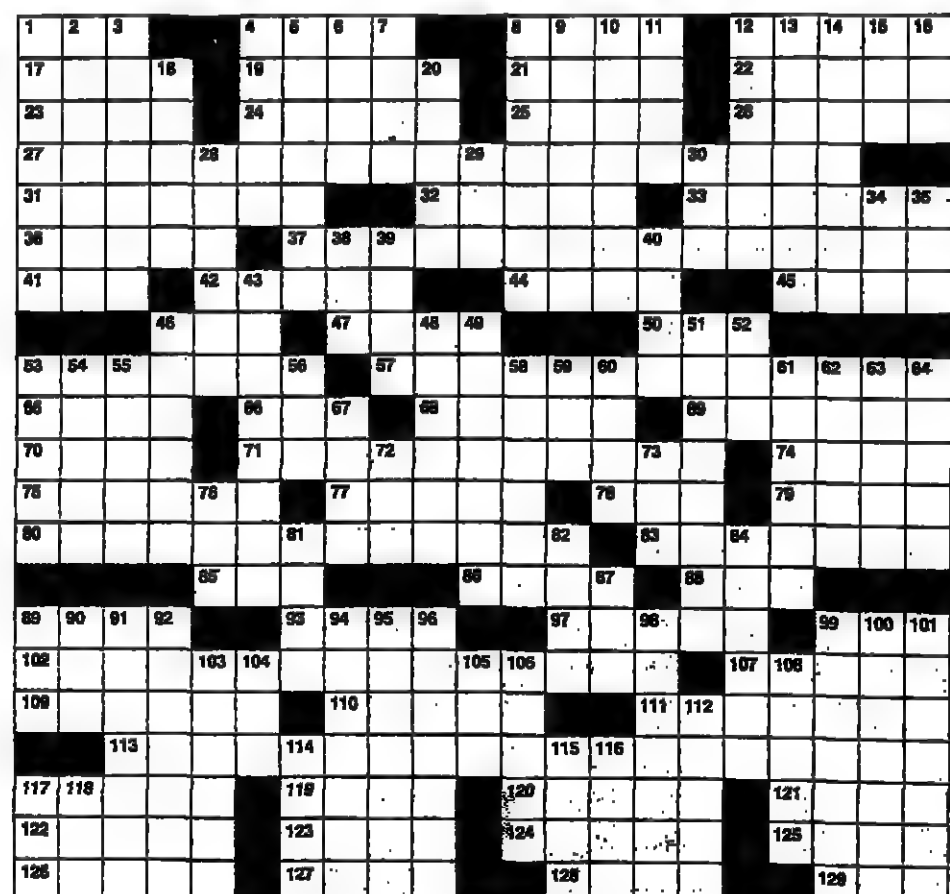
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- 12 O. Henry specialty
- 17 When to call, in some want ads
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- 21 Kind of cut
- 22 Blazing stars
- 23 Carom
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- 130 Disasters
- 131 Fictional friend of Isaac of York
- 132 One may be honorable
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- 139 Exhaust
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- 142 Emotionless
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- 145 Proposal response
- 146 D.C. team, for short



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- 35 Not necessarily exact: Abbr.
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Over the hill no longer

Until recently the middle-aged seemed virtually invisible to Madison Avenue, except in retirement-plan and vitamin commercials. That's all changing, writes Paula Span



Instead of young, thin models like this one, 'Vanity Fair' is now using models in their 30s, 40s and 50s, with lines on their foreheads and graying hair.

know that by 22 or 23 you've already decided whether you like Coke or Pepsi," Smith says.

But other companies have decided the old marketing verities no longer apply. Thus, the high-visibility television campaign for the Volkswagen Passat. Having sold Golfs and Jetras to the young (median buyer age: 29), the carmaker needed a roomier and pricier car for customers to "graduate" to. The Passat is meant to appeal to this older crowd (median buyer age: 42) and VW's agency, Arnold Communications of Boston, whipped up the ad campaign.

In one spot the woman in the car, primping in the rearview mirror while fretting about her upcoming date, is a single mother in her forties. The person watching with concern from the house is her adolescent daughter.

A droll voice-over (by perennially hip musician/artist Laurie Anderson) notes Molly is "about to dive headfirst into the dating pool, wondering if she could still swim." And it concludes "she felt like a teenager again — only with a nicer car."

Another Passat spot, called "Mystic Rhubarb," introduces Joe (balding, non-svelte), who's having his first taste of rhubarb pie at a roadside cafe. After rhapsodizing about what other experiences Joe might have missed, the voice-over announces "Joe smiled and bit into the great unknown. It tasted great."

"It's for people who want to be young in heart, alive, a little adventure left," says Arnold's creative head Ron Lawner, carefully tiptoeing around the m-word. "I don't think someone 40 years old now is the same as a 40-year-old was 15 or 20 years ago."

Witness an American Airlines spot in which a college freshman brags that her mother ("not like she's old or anything") is training to become a flight attendant. One of a series promoting the dedication of American's employees, it also indicates how they're maturing: The average age of its flight attendants has climbed to 39.

In the process of romancing consumers, of course, advertisers are telling them they matter, they're not over the proverbial hill.

It's probably not surprising that some of the leaders in adopting this ad tactic are themselves middle-aged. *Vanity Fair's* Harner is 51 ("but I look 16"); MasterCard's Flanagan and Smith of Yankelovich are each 42. "In the animal kingdom, when you're the silverback, you rule, right?" muses Lawner, creative chief on the Volkswagen account. He's 49. "You've survived, you've done what you had to do."

"There should be some acknowledgment of that, don't you think?" (Washington Post)

Yes, we have no bananas

How many goyim does it take to make a Pessah Seder?

One, if he's Polish. Augustine "Duke" Labaczewski may still be chuckling about it, 51 years later. He was the cook aboard the good ship *Hatikva*, a creaky Aliya Bet vessel that became a legend for transporting either illegal Jews or legal bananas (guess which).

Murray Greenfield, second officer in a crew of 20 Jews and two Gentiles, recalls that bizarre Seder, conducted in secret from those nasty Brits so valiantly devoted to keeping Holocaust survivors behind barbed wire.

Greenfield, of Ramat Aviv, documented the extraordinary American rescue effort of Aliya Bet in the book *The Jews' Secret Fleet* (co-authored by Joseph Hochstein, Gefen Publishers and MOD).

"We gave some bullshit story about where we were from," he says with a hearty laugh. "We said the boat was being rebuilt from what it was into a banana ship. Of course, it was crazy: bananas you hang. And we were building platforms to lay people down. But, you know, the bigger the lie, the better it goes."

who wore a trench coat and "a hat with gold on it."

McDonald, of Victoria, Canada, answered my phone call with a hearty "boker tov." An Irish Catholic former altar boy — "I was a yeshiva boy in Latium" — McDonald first heard about the Aliya Bet rescue at Harvard Law School.

"I came out of World War II pissed off — at Roosevelt and the Canadian leaders for what they didn't do. From Hitler, what do you expect — but from us, I expected more. I didn't think about it much until after the war, but I had a harbored resentment." Then one day in 1946, over bagels and lox at Harvard's Hillel House, he heard a talk by a Palestinian, "as you know, Palestinians used to be Jews."

He was reeled in. A 90-day adventure wound up being a two-year odyssey. He was interned in Cyprus along with his Jewish mates, and went to live on a Galilee kibbutz, where he ingrained his soul with all things Israeli. "I speak Hebrew fluently," he says, then adds with an audible wink, "but I'm not sure what the hell I'm saying."

He's as Jewish as a church-

Not Page One



Sam Orbaum

The wine went like mad. We didn't stop at four cups. Oh, no. I think it was more like 40

Docked in Lisbon, the vessel, formerly known as the *Tradewinds*, was destined to sneak 1,500 Jewish refugees from Italy into Palestine — but they were intercepted. As Greenfield tells it, "We fought with the British, and they beat us up." The passengers got to see their Promised Land, tantalizingly, but were redirected to Cyprus for internment.

A few weeks before setting off for its cargo, still in Lisbon, the crew realized that Pessah was upon them.

Working toward their lofty goal, the crew's Jews may have been forgiven for passing up Passover, but Duke would have none of that.

"Duke was a merchant marine cook during World War II. Short guy. He learned to cook in a Jewish bakery in Philadelphia. He knew all the Yiddish songs and Jewish holidays, and he knew all about Pessah. He was wonderful."

Harold Katz, first officer of the *Hatikva* and now a landlubber in Ramat Hasharon, recalls Duke as "practically an illiterate Polish kid, a professional sailor with tattoos and long hair, a pre-hippie hippie."

Greenfield chortles at the memory of this unlikely character. "When Duke heard it was Pessah, he said, 'It's Pessah! Ya gotta do something!' He was adamant. He was so built into yiddishkeit, so much of a contrast to the Pollacks and how terrible they were."

"So Duke prepared phoney food. Nobody was such a haredi that it mattered. He made it look like Pessah. He made a flat bread that looked like a matza. He made sponge cake. Maror was easy. I seem to remember he did something with fish, but I don't remember if it was gefilte. And there was lots of wine."

"The wine went like mad. We didn't stop at four cups. Oh, no. I think it was more like 40."

Keeping the Seder a secret was vital — the British must not suspect that the crew was predominantly Jewish — so the proceedings were camouflaged as a birthday party for the captain.

There was another sticky problem: Every ship docked in Lisbon had a soldier or policeman stationed on board.

The crew took care of that. "We had him placed up on the bridge, while we had the Seder in the hold," says Katz. "We plied him with wine to share in the birthday celebration. He was a little bit under the influence. Heh, heh. He was very happy up there."

Greenfield, struggling to recollect details, says he thinks he asked the Four Questions in Yiddish, but they were at a loss to perform much more of the Seder. So they sang songs.

"There was a record put out in the Spanish Revolution, under Franco, called *Six Songs for Democracy*. We sang some of them, in English." It was ludicrous, Greenfield laughs: they were singing anti-Fascist songs in Fascist Portugal, during a pseudo-Seder inspired by a Gentile Polish hippie sailor.

It gets even zanier when you factor in crewman Hugh McDonald, as ersatz a Jew as you'll ever meet, and Captain Diamond, a man of many aliases

going Catholic can get. "I'm very much of a Talmud student now. I've become very Jewish, married a Jewish girl, my kids are Jewish. David is a Jewish atheist — there's a difference, you know: Dan is very religious, and Kinneret is a businesswoman."

Kinneret McDonald?

"Yeah, I love that name."

He retains profound memories of the rescue operation. "We picked up our people in Italy, which was one of the most profound moments in my life — in the dusk, at twilight, to see these shadowy forms coming down, and everyone, saying 'shalom, shalom, shalom.' They knew they were home."

He needs no prodding to conjure up that Seder of 1947. "It was my first really great Seder — I'd been at one or two before, but they were run by people 200 years old who mumbled into their beards, you couldn't catch the gusto. This was a Seder that would take the roof off."

"That was a year when Pessah and Easter coincided, and the following night I took Katz and Murray to a Catholic Church to observe Tenebrae. They didn't want to go."

"I took some doing, but I tracked down Duke himself."

He must be one of the few sailors to have participated in both Aliya Bet and Operation Desert Storm.

He was also the only one on the *Hatikva* who assumed a Jewish identity — while his mates were trying to hide theirs from the British.

"I took the name Moishe Schneider. Anybody would talk to me, I was Moishe. Nobody called me Duke except the crew."

"But you know, I was a real asset because I spoke Yiddish, better than most of the boys."

"That came in handy when they took on the refugees, none of whom suspected that this rough 'n' ready sailor was not Jewish."

He had become very Zionist, he says, and when a friend urged him to join the effort to save refugees, he didn't think twice.

Captured by the British, he was interned at Atlit, escaped, and lived for a spell on Kibbutz Beit Keshet.

He recalls "singing songs of the halutzim" at the Seder. "We were mostly young idealists."

The Seder food was a challenge. "I used powdered eggs to make the matza. I couldn't make real gefilte fish, but I made nice little fish balls instead. Captain Diamond loved them."

Diamond led the Seder. He had more identities than Colonel Flagg. He was a kibbutznik, from Ginosar, with a Canadian passport and a false identity, hauling phantom bananas for something called the United Fruit Company. He was known as Shaike Rabinovitch, Yehoshua Baharav, Captain Diamond, Pinky, and heaven knows what else.

And he was a modern-day Moses.

"We had no haggadot, so Baharav told us about the rescue of Jews in modern times, in 1946 and '47," Greenfield says. "He was rescuing Jews, working in Arab countries, in Europe. So we had an Exodus story on Pessah, through his eyes, the modern exodus of the Jews."

When the law looks the other way

Christian Valor is an online vigilante. His quarry: child porno dealers. Matthew McAllester reports

If one day you turn on your computer and find nothing there but an image of a big python holding a red rock engraved with the name "se7en" in its gaping mouth, then you'll know you've been hacked. And you'll know that an online vigilante who lives in Southern California knows you are a dealer in child pornography.

Sorry. You were a dealer. Now you're just a guy with a big hunk of Swiss for a hard drive. Se7en, whose real name is Christian Valor, is a 28-year-old hacker with a mission: to track down traders in child pornography and mess with their computers. So far he's left his python calling card, or other similar memento mori, on the hard drives of about 30 people whose idea of fun is to deal in digitized photographs of children engaged in sexual acts.

But isn't breaking into someone else's computer and erasing its

files breaking the law?

"It's completely illegal," said Valor, who works as a computer security consultant to companies and government agencies. "But I've been told by enough cops they're never going to arrest me for doing this. I've been told by judges they'd find a way to throw it out every time. You find me a jury anywhere in the world that is going to convict me for invading a child pornographer's computer and destroying it. Or, in the unlikely event they find me guilty, find one that'll send me to jail."

"If worse comes to worst, guess what — you just made a national martyr. The whole country is going to go nuts."

ILLEGAL though it may be,

Valor wasn't thinking about the law when he first came across child pornography on the Net last May. "Some moron who thought he was going to be cute sent me a picture of child pornography via e-mail," said Valor, who had always thought the rumors of enormous stashes of online kiddie porn to be digital myth. "Now I thought, uh-oh."

Valor's previous belief that the talk of child pornography on the Internet was pure alarmism was based on a research project that lasted several weeks. "I spent an enormous amount of time trying to find it," Valor said. "The fact is, it's not on the Web. People don't throw that stuff on the Web."

"So now I was wondering if this [e-mailed image] was a fluke or

was this one picture of hundreds of thousands."

Valor headed for a longtime hacker's testing ground, the Internet Relay Chat channel, teensex.

Using a "who" command that enables users to examine others' online profiles, Valor started to deduce which participants in the channel were hacker kids and which were potentially child pornographers. From these early clues he followed a trail of e-mails and profiles that led to the private servers of child pornographers. On these servers the operators used a kind of software that required new users to upload new images of child pornography in order to gain access to the online library's wealth.

Valor gained acceptance by stealing legal images of kids over

the age of 16 from adult Web sites and offering them as images of children much younger. To his surprise, that same night all the regular operators of the channel had other things to do, and so he was left briefly in charge.

"It was one night's quick introduction to the world of child pornography."

Once Valor knew the hidden pathways of this new world, he set to work. He uses a variety of tools to damage the computers of child pornographers — viruses, Trojan horses and hostile Java applets, for example. Classic hacker weapons. Sometimes he'll upload adult pornography into their computers, wiping out the child images. Another program will hunt down every jpeg image on a hard drive and destroy it. Nearly all child pornography images are kept in the jpeg format.

"It's so much fun," Valor said. "It's also his duty, he feels. (Newsday)

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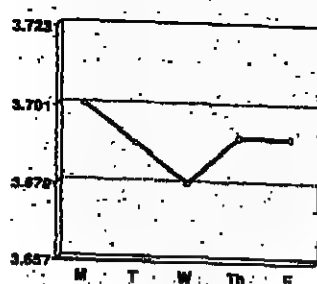
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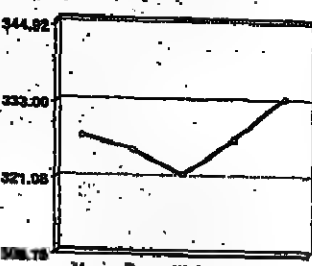
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in brief

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MAOF INDEX



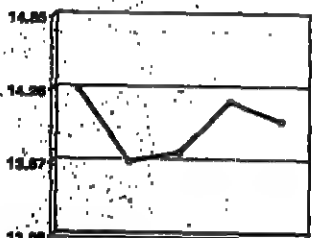
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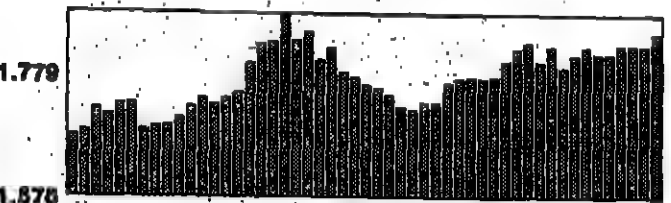


OIL

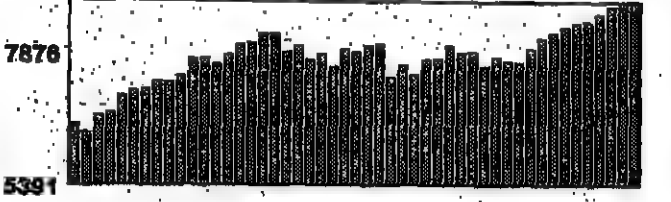
\$ per barrel of Brent crude



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Elbit finalizes GE deal

Elbit Medical Systems yesterday announced that it completed the sale of its Diasonics Vivimed Ultrasound Division to GE Medical Systems for \$228 million. The company said that after making adjustment for taxes and expenses associated with the transaction it expects to realize a net gain of approximately \$103m. Elbit's parent company, is expected to record a gain of some \$40m. Last February GE said it decided to purchase the division in order to enter the field of cardiology ultrasound. The division, which is a developer, manufacturer, and distributor of diagnostic ultrasound systems, employs some 900 workers worldwide and includes facilities in Israel, the US, Norway, and Switzerland.

Dan Gerstenfeld

Propper: PM must prevent high-tech crisis

Manufacturers Association president Dan Propper yesterday called on Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to ensure the government does not cut its 1998 support for R&D.

According to Chief Scientist Orna Berry, the budget this year was cut to \$260 million from \$467m. In 1997, while demand this year is expected to amount to \$528m.

In a letter to Netanyahu and Finance Minister Yankov Neeman, Propper asked for a \$190m. investment package for the high-tech industry.

David Harris

More forex reforms to begin in May

By DAVID HARRIS

While all attention is focused on the upcoming announcement of the full convertibility of the shekel, the Bank of Israel yesterday gave notice of the timetable for the implementation of the outstanding currency liberalization measures first decided upon in August.

The steps to come into force on May 1 include:

- Foreigners will be unrestricted in shekel options and futures trading via means of a commercial bank. Presently, foreigners are prevented from dealing in futures which extend beyond a month.

Given that restrictions were lifted on

Israelis trading in futures in January, the central bank said this latest move will complete the liberalization of the futures market.

- Domestic banks will be allowed to purchase shekels from foreign banks in foreign currency without limitation. Until now this form of transaction was not permitted. The change will lead to higher volume in global shekel trading, said the bank.

- Israelis will be allowed to pay foreigners in shekels for all permitted transactions and not just in foreign currency. Citizens will be required to inform the central bank of such deals.

This is because the bank wishes to close-

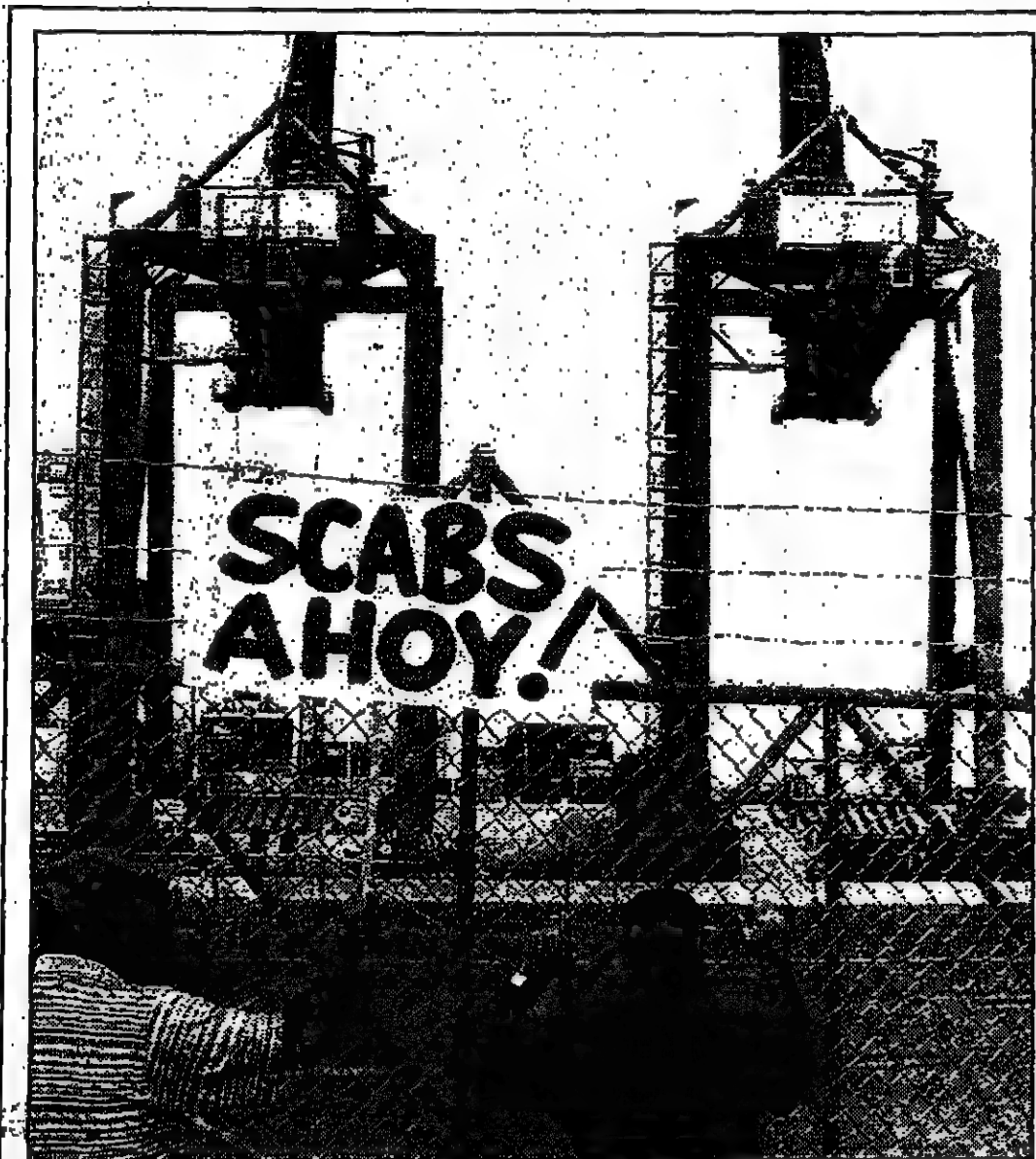
ly monitor the balance of payments and to "allow the efficient management of monetary policy also with regard to the shekel activities of foreigners," read a statement from the Bank of Israel.

- All foreigners' bank accounts here will be combined into two types of accounts: non-resident, foreign currency deposits and non-resident shekel deposits. Within the latter, foreigners will be allowed to hold linked deposits and savings programs.

- Those employing foreign workers for less than 30 days (for example actors and lecturers) will be allowed to purchase foreign currency to pay their salaries and expenses without the need for documentation, which is currently required.

Following the Pessah break, Bank of Israel Governor Jacob Frenkel, Finance Minister Yankov Neeman and Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu will finalize the liberalization steps that will end the process begun last June of turning the shekel into a fully convertible currency.

The central bank will not publish new shekel representative rates today because all European markets are closed for Easter. However, commercial banks will offer foreign currency transactions for customers. Trading will resume tomorrow, with the representative rates being published at the earlier time of between 12 p.m. and 12.30 p.m. from Tuesday through Thursday.



Labor showdown in Australia

Sacked members of the Maritime Union of Australia watch non-union workers from behind a fence as they unload a container ship at Patrick's Stevedore's Port Botany terminal in Sydney. The non-union workers, also known as 'scabs,' unloaded a ship which became the first to dock at the terminal since Patrick's sacked 1,400 dockworkers across Australia. (Reuters)

Jordan cement monopoly sale faces domestic opposition

AMMAN (Reuters) - Jordan's plan to sell a 33 percent stake in its sole cement firm may be hurt by stiff domestic opposition, part of a growing public debate on privatization, investors and officials said on Saturday.

They said internal opposition by the firm's board and a vocal parliamentary opposition to the sale of the shares to a strategic international partner have combined to put curbs on the latest step to proceed with the sale.

This week the government, after almost two years of indecision, awarded leading Egyptian investment bank EFG Hermes the mandate to act as its financial adviser to the sale.

The government has until recently preferred the sale to a strategic foreign investor in the industry.

Awarding the adviser role to EFG Hermes does not rule out such a sale, but the government

has begun to suggest it was open to other options, including a private placement.

"This would be the beginning of the end of the company if the government insists on a strategic partner (investor)," said Hamdi Tabas, chairman of Jordan Cement Factories.

The firm's own board unanimously told the government it was against a strategic partner, which the firm feared would then gain a veto over decisions on production and exports.

Investors say political infighting, combined with a public debate which has vilified privatization as asset-stripping amid nationalist fears of foreign control of the economy, may put brakes on the government's drive to conclude the deal soon.

Some decision-makers are now leaning toward offering the sale to local investors or a long-term Arab investor.

The selection of Hermes, the only regional outfit competing

against nine international investment banks, has caused ripples in international investment circles, with some saying such a choice may discourage them from considering Jordan in future deals.

Officials confirmed the Egyptian firm was chosen after a World Bank scoring system giving a 60-40 percent weighting respectively to technical and financial proposals, which critics say tilts the balance to the most price competitive.

Jordan Cement Factories, a blue-chip firm and one of the jewels in Jordan's limited sell-off of holdings, is 49.6% owned by the government. It enjoys a monopoly until 2001.

The last year has been a difficult time for the firm, as demand has slumped from Asia and uncertainty hung over the fate of the Middle East peace process, hampering prospects of capturing the lucrative Palestinian market.

The government, lacking a coherent privatization scheme, has wavered since it first announced the plans to sell a substantial share as part of an IMF-directed privatization.

It had a disappointing start in an attempt to attract international cement producers such as French Lafarge, whom the government thought would help harness expertise and infuse much needed capital to help the firm undertake ambitious multi-million dollar expansion schemes.

Expert: Nigeria likely to supply natural gas

By DAVID HARRIS

The government is now targeting Nigeria as the most likely supplier of liquefied natural gas (LNG), according to energy consultant Amit Mor.

While negotiations are ongoing with several possible suppliers of LNG, a bid from the Nigeria LNG project appears to be the most favorable here and is probably the most practicable, Mor said yesterday.

Nigeria LNG is currently planning the supply of 5.7 million tons of LNG to Europe. The gas will be on stream by October 1999 in a project which is costing some \$3.8 billion. The Nigerian government holds a 49 percent stake, while Royal Dutch/Shell has a 25.6% stake, with a further 15% held by French-based Elf, and 10.4% by Italy's Agip.

The other principal party interested in supplying Israel is the Norwegian national oil company Statoil. Its interest is hampered by one major factor: It does not currently have an LNG project, despite some 15 years of attempts to get one off the ground. The expense of constructing a liquefaction plant is the principal reason for Statoil's lack of success.

"For Nigeria to have another unit [for supplying Israel], is going to be much less costly," said Mor. "For Norway the problem is it would be the first project and you need lots of facilities such as the ports."

The other potential LNG suppliers, such as Russia and Turkmenistan, are being ruled out as too expensive by senior government and Israel Electric Corporation decision makers, according to Mor. IEC will be the principal purchaser of imported gas to power its electricity generation plants.

Despite all the talk about LNG,

Mor remains convinced the principal source should be natural gas imported by pipeline from Egypt.

"People in the government still hope that in due time, when the political situation has hopefully improved, Egypt will give the go-ahead to ETGC [Egyptian Trans Gas Company, which includes] Amoco and Agip to submit a proposal," said Mor.

Talks for the purchase of gas from Egypt have frozen, with Cairo saying they will not recommence until there is some progress in the peace process.

This delay may lead Israel to press ahead with an LNG tender issue.

In any case, government officials and experts alike say Israel should look to more than one supplier of gas, to ensure the energy source will be delivered, even if diplomatic relations falter with one country or another.

If the government presses ahead with the purchase of LNG it, would need to construct a \$300 million-\$400m. offshore regasification rig, according to a National Infrastructure Ministry official. The structure would be built some 2 kilometers from the coast, in all probability opposite Haifa or Ashdod.

Some five consortia have reached the prequalification stage to become the internal gas distributor: Amoco and Paz; Gaz de France, Texas Utilities and Andrisgas; British Gas, Mashab, and the Dankner family; Italgas and Ofer Brothers; and Brides of Argentina.

The government hopes that by 2005 a quarter of all energy used in Israel will be gas-based. To reach this target the ministry said that a decision on sources must be made no later than early next year. If this is not the case, an additional coal-fired power station will have to be built in the coming years.

UK to boost Northern Ireland economy

BELFAST (Bloomberg) - The UK government plans a series of measures to boost Northern Ireland's economy, a government official said, reinforcing a peace agreement that could end almost 30 years of sectarian conflict.

The accord, signed on Saturday, will be matched by steps to attract foreign investment, boost industry and help the UK province emerge from a conflict that cost 3,000 lives, he said. The official would not give details and declined to be named.

"If the agreement works, as early as 1999 we could see a pickup in Northern Ireland's economic growth from tourism" alone, said Eoin Fahy, chief economist of Ulster Bank Ltd.

Beyond that, the province "could benefit from foreign investment similar to the level seen" in the Republic of Ireland.

Under the peace plan, Northern Ireland will remain part of the UK if that's the wish of the majority, which is Protestant.

Catholics and Protestants will share power in an elected assembly in Belfast, the province's capital, ending direct rule from London.

And a council will be set up with the Irish Republic, which is mainly Catholic, to satisfy the aspirations of Northern Ireland's Catholics for a future united Ireland.

Still, it could take as long as a year for foreign investors to feel comfortable that a political settlement has finally put an end to violence, and it could be another two before decisions to invest translate into investment, analysts say.

The likes of Ford Motor Co.; Seagate Technology Inc., a US maker of computer memory components; Fruit of the Loom Inc., a clothing maker, and Daewoo Motor Co. of South Korea have plants in Northern Ireland, though investment has been held back by the threat of bombing and rioting in the province.

With peace, "there's no reason the north shouldn't have the same level of foreign investment as the south," said Ulster Bank's Fahy. The territories have much in common, "while the infrastructure in

the north is a bit better."

Ireland, a member of the European Union, attracts about one-third of all the investment by US companies in Europe, helped by low corporate taxes, government grants, and a highly educated workforce.

It's also been Europe's fastest-growing economy over the last two years, with gross domestic product forecast to expand 8.5 percent this year after jumping 10.5% in 1997. That far outstrips growth in the UK, forecast at 1.7% this year — and its Northern Ireland province has additional problems of large numbers of people on welfare and declining industries such as textiles and shipbuilding.

The plan to boost the province's economy will be announced by UK Chancellor of the Exchequer Gordon Brown, the government official said, after a planned visit to Northern Ireland by Geoffrey Robinson, a Treasury minister.

The official gave no specifics, and wouldn't comment on a report in the *Financial Times* that measures being discussed include grants to attract foreign investment, corporate tax breaks, the creation of enterprise zones and incentives for spending on research and development.

Steps to increase prosperity could help underwrite the peace plan, the success of which is not taken for granted.

Paul Cronin, vice president of Ireland IDA, an Irish government agency that provides support to US corporations setting up or expanding operations in the country, said both south and north should benefit from peace, as the whole of Ireland becomes more attractive to investors.

"Much of the dynamic in the current situation has to do with the difference in relative prosperity," he said after the agreement was signed. "The increase in growth in the south has certainly affected the political process in the north."

The UK says cross-border trade between Northern Ireland and the Republic has the potential to double to £3 billion per year, from £1.5b. in 1995-96. (Bloomberg)

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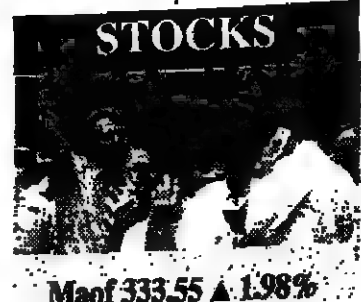
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Shekel boosts TASE

Market buoyed by easing of currency restrictions



Maof 333.55 ▲ 1.98%

Stocks advanced to records after the Bank of Israel said it would ease restrictions on the shekel, strengthening expectations it will continue to weaken, helping the profits of exporting companies.

Israel Chemicals gained 2.4 percent to NIS 4.67, and Nice Systems rose 2.6% to 173.1. That helped the Maof Index of the 25 largest companies to advance 1.98% to 333.55, an all-time high.

The Bank of Israel announced yesterday that beginning May 1 Israeli banks will be permitted to buy an unlimited amount of shekels from foreign banks and Israelis will be allowed to make payments to foreigners in shekels. Israel is expected to continue to ease currency restrictions in the weeks ahead, including those preventing Israelis from investing in property abroad and taking foreign currency out of the country.

"There are expectations that the dollar will continue to be strong. Because of the liberalization, Israelis will be allowed to buy dollars for transactions abroad," said Dror Kraus, a broker at Koor Investment House. The shekel will weaken "another couple of percentage points," though not more

influence on inflation." Varon added that he didn't see the central bank intervening in the foreign currency markets to boost the shekel.

Discount Investment rose 3.5% to 105.2. Last week, the investment company said it agreed to sell its 37.6% stake in Delek to investor Yitzhak Tshuva for NIS 580 million.

Koor Industries gained 0.9% to 474 after deciding last week to increase its stake in ECI Telecommunications. Koor said it will buy 5% of ECI Telecommunications from Clal Electronics Industries for \$112 million, or \$29.25 a share, and will get an option to buy another 5% for \$37 a share. Clal Electronics advanced 4.3% to 578. Mashov Computers increased 2.7% to 5.82. The technology holding company, looking to pay off debts and to raise capital for new investments, said it plans to sell a 46% stake in Formula Systems to Shamrock Holding of California Inc. and an unnamed company. Formula Systems jumped 4.9% to 151.9. Its American depositary receipts gained 1.8% on Thursday. (Bloomberg)

Over 30% of Americans favor investing retirement taxes in stocks

More than 30 percent of Americans think a crisis is confronting the Social Security system and 60 percent would like to invest part of their Social Security tax contributions in the stock market, a Time Magazine/CNN poll found.

Of the 1,011 adults polled, 80 percent said that individuals – and not the US government – should decide how Social Security taxes are invested, according to a survey conducted April 8 and 9. Seventy-two percent said the government should not be responsible for any financial losses sustained by individuals who might opt to invest in the market under such an approach.

The poll results come just days after US President Bill Clinton raised the possibility of letting people privately invest part of their Social Security payments. "Could you construct some system which also made allowance for private accounts? I think you could," Clinton said at a town meeting in Kansas City on April 7. "I think we'd all like to see a higher rate of return on the system, on

the investments." To be sure, Treasury Secretary Robert Rubin has said he and Clinton both oppose any "radical privatization" of the system. Instead, the administration is willing to accept the "limited use" of individual accounts, Rubin said.

While no major changes to the law are expected in this election year, several Social Security proposals already are in the works, and some would lay the groundwork for greater individual choice than the current system offers.

According to the Time/CNN poll, a majority of Americans – 52 percent – trust the Clinton administration more than the Republican-controlled Congress to fix the Social Security system. (Bloomberg)

ISRAELI MONEY MARKETS

Patah (foreign currency deposit rates) (22.2.98)				
Currency (deposit term)	3 MONTHS	6 MONTHS	12 MONTHS	
U.S. dollar (\$250,000)	4.710	4.710	4.910	
U.S. dollar (\$100,000)	5.540	5.530	5.590	
U.S. dollar (\$50,000)	2.020	2.110	2.500	
U.S. dollar (\$25,000)	0.000	0.000	0.900	
Yen (10 million yen)				
(Rates vary higher or lower than indicated according to deposit)				
Shekel Foreign Exchange Rates* (9.4.98)				
CHECKS AND TRAMFERS		BANKNOTES		Rep. Rates**
Buy	Sell	Buy	Sell	
Currency basket	3.9857	3.9858	—	3.9379
U.S. dollar	3.9390	3.7120	3.59	3.77
German mark	2.0095	2.0359	1.98	2.07
Pound sterling	6.1018	6.2000	5.98	6.29
French franc	0.6976	0.9075	0.96	0.92
Japanese yen (100)	2.7447	2.7800	2.89	2.83
Dutch florin	1.7796	1.7673	1.74	1.84
Swiss franc	2.4096	2.4487	2.36	2.48
Swedish krona	0.4919	0.4954	0.45	0.46
Norwegian krona	0.4824	0.4902	0.47	0.55
Danish krona	0.6255	0.6340	0.61	0.65
Finnish mark	0.6599	0.6706	0.64	0.68
Canadian dollar	2.5854	2.6068	2.52	2.56
Australian dollar	2.3900	2.4296	2.34	2.47
S. African rand	0.7236	0.7353	0.65	0.74
Belgian franc (10)	0.9715	0.9872	0.95	1.01
Austrian schilling (10)	2.5476	2.5935	2.79	2.94
Italian lire (1000)	2.0293	2.0621	1.99	2.10
Jordanian dinar	5.1415	6.2245	5.07	6.42
Egyptian pound	1.0400	1.1300	1.04	1.13
ECU	3.9736	4.0377	—	—
Irish punt	5.0485	5.1300	4.98	5.21
Spanish peseta (100)	2.3511	2.3692	2.32	2.44

*These rates vary according to bank. **Bank of Israel.

Bulls nail Eastern Conference-best 60th win

CHICAGO (AP) — The Chicago Bulls clinched the best record in the East with their 60th victory, beating the Orlando Magic 87-78 Saturday night behind 37 points — and a left-handed airball from the free-throw line — from Michael Jordan.

The two-time defending champions (60-18) have earned home-court advantage at least through the first three rounds of the playoffs. The Bulls are also one game

ahead of Utah for the best overall record after the Jazz were beaten at Minnesota on Saturday night.

Jordan, who shot 15-of-25 from the floor but only 4-of-10 from the line, airballed a left-handed free throw with the Bulls ahead by 17 late in the third quarter.

Grizzlies 105, Blazers 96 (OT) Shafer Abdur-Rahim matched his season high with 31 points, including four in overtime, as Vancouver snapped a four-game

losing streak. Cavaliers 106, 76ers 95 Wesley Person shot 7-for-10 from 3-point range and scored 25 points as Cleveland had its highest scoring half of the season — 70 points — to win at home.

The Cavaliers, who improved to 20-0 when scoring 100 or more points, came back from an early 20-point deficit. Timberwolves 110, Jazz 103 Host Minneapolis guaranteed the

first winning season in franchise history and dealt the Jazz a blow in their hopes to win homecourt advantage throughout the playoffs. Karl Malone had 37 points and 12 rebounds for Utah in his return from a one-game suspension. The defeat cut Utah's lead over idle Seattle to one game in the race for the best record in the Western Conference.

Minnesota (42-36) tied a season high with 11 3-pointers on 15 attempts to extend its franchise-best victory total. The Wolves were 40-42 last year, their best showing until this season.

Mavericks 99, Nuggets 81 Shawn Bradley had 18 points, 14 rebounds and four blocks as host Dallas ended a five-game losing streak.

Nets 124, Bucks 117 Sam Cassell had 29 points and 13 assists and Kerry Kittles added 25 points as visiting New Jersey won its fourth straight.

Keith Van Horn added 20 points as the Nets moved within a half-game of the idle New York Knicks for the seventh spot in the Eastern Conference playoff race.

Lakers 96, Warriors 84 Shaquille O'Neal had 35 points and 15 rebounds and visiting Los Angeles held off a second-half charge.

The Lakers (57-21) moved one game behind Seattle (58-20) and two behind Utah (59-19) in the race for the Western Conference's top playoff seed.

Nick Van Exel scored just five points.

Portland 81, 25, 15, 24, 1 — 100
Vancouver 80, 21, 24, 16, 20 — 105
ORLANDO (80) — B. Grant 4-8 3-4 11, Wallace 9-17 4-4 22, Cole 2-4 0-0 4, Riser 10-18 4-26, Skutumpah 3-12 3-3 4-10, O'Neal 2-8 0-0 4, Augmon 4-8 2-2 10, Williams 3-8 0-0 6, G. Grant 1-0 0-0 3, Totals 50-77 19-18 86.

WASHO (105) — Abdur-Rahim 15-30 0-0 31, Smith 2-3 2-2 8, M. Grant 5-20 0-0 22, Edwards 7-18 1-12 27, Mayberry 3-6 3-5 11, Newell 0-4 0-0 0, Hurley 0-4 0-0 0, Daniels 0-0 0-0 0, Chisum 1-1 0-0 3, Lynch 2-4 1-1 5, Totals 58-92 22-77 105.

Fouled out—None. Rebounds—Portland 54 (Wallace 15), Vancouver 45 (Smith 10). Assists—Portland 24 (Skutumpah 9), Vancouver 25 (Mayberry 10). Technicals—Skutumpah, Mayberry 2. Ejection—Skutumpah, A-18, K32.

Philadelphia 28, 23, 20, 24 — 95
Cleveland 16, 20, 31, 28 — 108
PHILADELPHIA (85) — Thomas 4-8 1-1 9, Coleman 3-14 6-8 13, Ruffin 3-4 4-10, Vernon 10-15 11-32, Mickle 0-3 0-0 0, Williams 4-8 3-11, Benjamin 5-6 0-0 5, Davis 2-6 0-0 4, Snow 1-4 2-4, Smith 2-6 2-2 8, Totals 32-72 22-35 95.

CLEVELAND (108) — Henderson 1-5 1-1 3, Kemp 4-8 4-6 12, Igouakias 6-12 4-6 18, Knight 4-10 12-15 20, Person 5-14 0-0 25, Potterfield 3-9 0-0 6, Bury 0-0 0-0 0, Anderson 6-11 8-9 20, Perry 1-2 0-0 3, C. Thomas 0-3 1-2 1, Totals 36-70 30-58 108.

Fouled out—Vernon, Igouakias, Rebounds—Philadelphia 44 (Coleman 9), Cleveland 46 (Person 10). Assists—Philadelphia 18 (Henderson 5), Cleveland 25 (Knight 14). Technicals—Vernon, Coleman 2. Ejection—Coleman, A-17, 225.

Utah 26, 24, 25, 28 — 103
Minnesota 20, 27, 21, 33 — 108
UTAH (103) — Kneale 6-9 5-5 17, Malone 15-25 7-11 37, Foster 1-1 2-3 4, Hornacek 1-0 0-0 5,

Stockton 6-13 3-6 16, Bailey 2-3 2-2 7, Omerout 3-5 0-0 6, Anderson 5-6 1-2 7, Russell 1-0 0-0 2, Morris 1-0 0-0 2, Totals 30-76 23-33 103.

MINNESOTA (110) — Garnett 9-18 4-4 22, Mitchell 5-14 4-4 14, P. Miller 2-7 0-2 4, Foster 6-14 2-2 17, Marbury 11-17 4-8 30, Curry 1-2 0-0 2, Porter 6-9 5-5 21, Jordan 0-0 0-0 0, Totals 40-78 19-24 110.

Fouled out—None. Rebounds—Utah 51 (Malone 12), Minnesota 39 (Garnett 10). Assists—Utah 31 (Hornacek 8), Minnesota 29 (Marbury 10). Technicals—Malone, Minnesota 1. Ejection—Utah 4, Minnesota 1. Flagrant—Utah—Garnett, A-20, 251.

Orlando 13, 18, 22, 25 — 78
Chicago 23, 26, 28, 17 — 87
ORLANDO (78) — Outlaw 0-4 1-2 1, Grant 4-8 4-7 12, Schreyer 0-0 0-0 0, Anderson 10-15 2-2 21, Price 4-7 0-0 7, Strong 4-8 6-8 14, O'Leary 1-1 2-3 10, B. Grant 1-5 0-0 3, Totals 27-67 22-34 78.

CHICAGO (87) — Pippen 5-16 2-5 13, Rodman 0-3 0-0 0, Washington 4-7 0-0 0, R. Harper 3-7 0-0 7, Jordan 15-25 4-10 37, Simpkins 1-1 0-0 2, Brown 1-4 0-0 2, Burke 2-8 0-0 4, Kerr 1-1 0-0 3, Sawyer 4-6 0-0 1, Rivers 1-4 0-0 2, Totals 37-60 16-18 87.

Fouled out—None. Rebounds—Orlando 57 (Strong 13), Chicago 47 (Rodman 10). Assists—Orlando 9 (O'Leary 5), Chicago 24 (Pippen, Rodman 9). Technicals—Orlando coach Daly, Brown, Rodman 2, A-24, 104.

Denver 24, 18, 20, 19 — 81
Dallas 23, 18, 26, 29 — 96
DENVER (81) — Fortson 7-18 2-6 16, Ellis 3-10 0-0 6, Garnett 2-8 2-6 8, Goldwire 6-13 2-2 15, Newman 4-10 6-15 30, 0-0 0-0 0, Butler 5-8 0-0 10, Jackson 0-0 0-0 0, Washington 1-1 0-0 2, Lauderdale 1-1 1-2 3, Totals 31-72 12-41.

DALLAS (96) — M. Grant 2-4 0-0 4, Grant 4-10 3-4 11, Riley 3-3 0-0 6, Finley 7-10 1-2 15,

Reeves 4-8 4-8 13, Bradley 7-11 4-14 18, Davis 3-10 0-0 7, Stockton 6-13 3-6 16, Russell 4-11 0-0 9, Totals 40-84 15-38 96.

Fouled out—Bradley, Rebounds—Denver 51 (Ellis 13), Dallas 53 (Bradley 14). Assists—Denver 16 (Alexander 6), Dallas 23 (Finley 7). Flagrant—Utah—Alexander, A-13, 875.

New Jersey 33, 27, 31, 33 — 124
Milwaukee 20, 31, 23, 28 — 117
NEW JERSEY (124) — G. Miller 5-13 4-4 16, Van Horn 7-10 5-4 20, Cage 3-4 0-0 6, Cassell 11-15 2-8 23, Kittles 9-14 5-4 25, Evans 1-4 0-0 3, G. Miller 5-8 5-5 15, Douglas 3-0 0-0 6, Vaughn 1-0 0-0 2, Harris 1-0 0-0 2, Totals 47-77 25-30 124.

MILWAUKEE (117) — Curry 1-5 2-4 5, Gilliam 11-17 5-7 27, Johnson 10-11 4-10 24, Allen 6-17 5-8 20, Brandon 9-16 4-4 23, Perry 1-4 0-0 2, Honeycutt 5-8 2-2 14, Foster 1-3 0-0 2, Totals 44-82 25-31 117.

Fouled out—None. Rebounds—New Jersey 45 (Cage 10), Milwaukee 39 (Johnson 10). Assists—New Jersey 25 (Cassell 13), Milwaukee 27 (Brandon 11). Technicals—New Jersey, Reggie Miller 2, A-18, 375.

L.A. Lakers 32, 25, 18, 20 — 95
Golden State 14, 25, 25, 18 — 84
L.A. LAKERS (95) — Barnett 6-9 0-1 12, Fox 4-7 0-0 11, O'Neal 11-22 5-20 35, Jones 5-10 2-4, Fisher 0-0 0-0 0, Van Exel 2-7 0-0 5, Stuart 1-2 1-2 3, Bryant 4-6 0-0 10, Campbell 2-6 0-0 4, Barry 0-0 0-0 2, Totals 37-77 20-31 95.

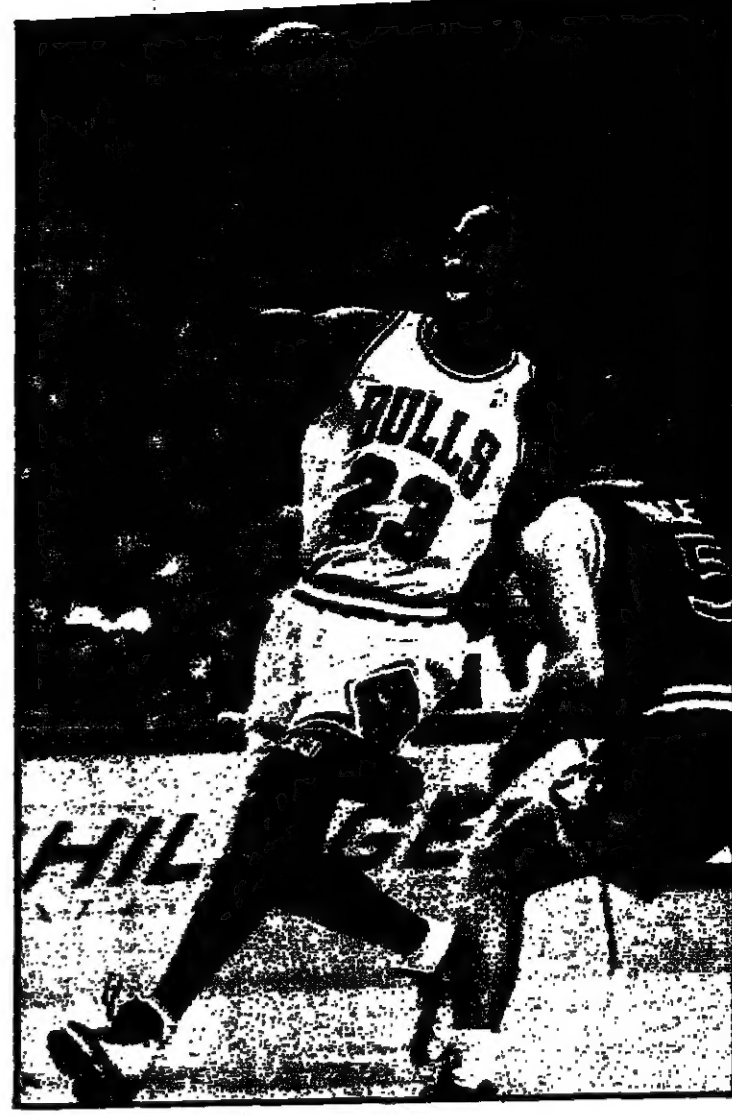
GOLDEN STATE (84) — Curry 5-14 5-4 15, Washington 3-5 3-5 9, Denham 3-8 3-4 9, Jackson 6-17 5-7 23, Bogues 1-4 0-0 2, Fisher 0-0 0-0 0, Dale 7-18 1-2 18, Foster 0-0 0-0 0, P. Miller 0-0 0-0 0, Totals 30-72 21-33 84.

Fouled out—Curry, Rebounds—Los Angeles 55 (O'Neal 15), Golden State 52 (Campbell 12). Assists—Los Angeles 28 (Fox 8), Golden State 25 (Johnson, Miller 7), A-19, 821.

EASTERN CONFERENCE				
Atlantic Division	W	L	Pct.	GB
x-Miami	54	24	.692	0
New York	42	36	.538	12
New Jersey	41	36	.532	12.5
Orlando	39	40	.494	15.5
Washington	38	39	.494	15.5
Boston	35	42	.455	18.5
Philadelphia	30	49	.380	24.5
Central Division				
x-Chicago	60	18	.769	0
y-Indiana	54	25	.685	5.5
y-Charlotte	47	39	.548	12.5
y-Atlanta	46	31	.597	13.5
y-Cleveland	45	33	.577	15
Detroit	35	43	.449	25
Phoenix	35	43	.449	25
Toronto	15	62	.195	40.5

x-clinched division title, y-clinched playoff spot, z-clinched conference title

WESTERN CONFERENCE				
Pacific Division	W	L	Pct.	GB
x-Utah	59	19	.756	0
y-San Antonio	53	25	.679	6
y-Minnesota	42	36	.538	17
y-Rockets	40	38	.513	19
Dallas	20	59	.253	39.5
Vancouver	18	59	.234	40.5
Denver	10	68	.128	49
Central Division				
x-San Jose	58	20	.744	0
y-L.A. Lakers	57	21	.731	1
y-Phoenix	52	25	.675	5.5
y-Portland	44	34	.564	14
Sacramento	27	51	.344	31
Golden State	16	62	.205	42
L.A. Clippers	16	62	.205	42



LOWERING THE PRICE — Bulls' Michael Jordan goes around Orlando's Mark Price in first-quarter action. Chicago won 87-78. (Reuters)

Red Wings beat Rangers 5-2 to stay top

DETROIT (AP) — Martin Lapointe had two goals and an assist as the Detroit Red Wings kept pace with Dallas atop the Western Conference with a 5-2 win Saturday over the punchless New York Rangers.

Stars 5, Lightning 1 Joe Nieuwendyk had two goals and two assists as visiting Dallas won its third straight game.

Flyers 4, Capitals 3 Rod Brind'Amour scored twice and Chris Gratton had a goal and an assist as host Philadelphia won for the fifth time in seven games.

Coyotes 4, Blues 3 Cliff Ronning had two goals and an assist as visiting Phoenix moved into sixth place in the Western Conference.

Panthers 3, Penguins 3 Jovanovski scored with 2:12 left in regulation to give Florida the tie.

Kings 4, Avalanche 3 Yanic Perrault scored twice, including one of Los Angeles' franchise-record three shorthanded goals, as visiting Colorado lost its sixth straight game.

Devils 3, Bruins 2

Scott Niedermayer and Doug Bodger scored power-play goals as visiting New Jersey moved back into a three-way tie for the league's best overall record.

Maple Leafs 5, Hurricanes 1 Derek King scored two goals and Mats Sundin and rookie Mike Johnson added one each in the second period as host Toronto scored four goals in one period.

Sabres 4, Senators 3 Curtis Brown scored with 2:51 left in the third period to lift visiting Buffalo to a tie.

Canadians 3, Islanders 3 Robert Reichel's goal at 12:59 of the second period gave visiting New York a tie.

Canucks 1, Sharks 1 Bret Hedican scored early in the third period to bring Vancouver into the tie as host San Jose earned a point in the playoff race.

Oilers 5, Flames 4 Janne Niinimäki had a goal and two assists and host Edmonton scored four power-play goals.

Todd Marchant, Scott Fraser, Tony Hrkac and Frank Musil also scored for the Oilers.

Florida 1, 0, 2, 0 — 3
Pittsburgh 0, 2, 1, 0 — 3
First Period—1, Florida, Dwyer 11 (Kozlov, Occasional, 18:55, Second Period—3, Pittsburgh, Brown 13 (Morris), 25:3, Pittsburgh, Hatcher 18 (Lapointe), 18:12 (pp). Third Period—3, Pittsburgh, Kasparian 4 (Nieuwendyk, 12:34), 9:26 (pp), 5, Florida, Niedermayer 9 (Lapointe, 11:45), 6, Florida, Jovanovski 8 (Gratton, 11:45), 17:45, Overtime—None. Goals—Florida, Verbeke 18, Pittsburgh, Bernero 14, 12:7.

Washington 0, 1, 2, 0 — 3
Philadelphia 0, 0, 0, 0 — 0
First Period—1, Philadelphia, LaChar 40 (Kost, 12:34), 2:15, 2, Philadelphia, Gratton 20 (Sillinger, 12:34), 7:20 (pp). Second Period—3, Washington, Belton 4 (Jannu, 10:34), 7:56 (pp). Third Period—4, Washington, Hunter 7 (Belton), 5:20, 5, Philadelphia, Brind'Amour 24 (Zubrus, 10:34), 6:17, 5, Philadelphia, Brind'Amour 35, 12:14, 7, Washington, Housley 6 (Jannu, 17:45), 17:45, Goals—Washington, Kozlov, Philadelphia, Burke 19, 18:22.

Dallas 1, 2, 0, 0 — 3
Tampa Bay 1, 0, 0, 0 — 1
First Period—1, New Jersey, Nieuwendyk 38 (Adams, 12:34), 1:10, 2, Tampa Bay, Peterson 4 (McCarthy, 12:34), 5:15, Second Period—1, Dallas, Reuvers 37 (Zubrus, Adams), 2:18 (pp), 4, Dallas, Strundberg 7 (Marshall), 5:20, Third Period—3, Dallas, Adams 12 (Nieuwendyk, Verbeke), 1:25 (pp), 5, Dallas, Verbeke 27 (Nieuwendyk, Chambers), 7:23, A-12, 558.

N.Y. Rangers 0, 0, 2, 0 — 2
First Period—1, Detroit, Lapointe 14 (Yzerman, 12:34), 7:20 (pp). Second Period—2, Detroit, Brown 18 (Lapointe, 12:34), 11:45, 3, Detroit, Lapointe 15 (Fedorov, 12:34), 22:1, 4, Detroit, Fedorov 6 (Lapointe, 12:34), 2:56, 5, New York, Smith 1 (Sawchenko, 12:34), 7:24 (pp), 6, Detroit, Murphy 11 (Kubie, 12:34), 10:27, 7, New York, Kowalski 21 (Gratkov, 12:34), 15:55, Goals—New York, Richter, Ouellet, Detroit, Goggin 19, 18:53.

Phoenix 2, 2, 0, 0 — 4
St. Louis 2, 1, 0, 0 — 3
First Period—1, Phoenix, Ronning 10 (Shannon, 12:34), 30, 2, Phoenix, Tocche 29 (Naiman, 12:34), 3:10, 3, St. Louis, Gill 12 (Turgeon, 12:34), 18:15 (pp). Second Period—1, St. Louis, P. Miller 18 (P. Miller, 12:34), 12:34, 2, Phoenix, Ronning 11 (Sawchenko, 12:34), 12:34, 3, Phoenix, Ronning 11 (Sawchenko, 12:34), 12:34, 4, Phoenix, Ronning 11 (Sawchenko, 12:34), 12:34, 5, Phoenix, Ronning 11 (Sawchenko, 12:34), 12:34, 6, Phoenix, Ronning 11 (Sawchenko, 12:34), 12:34, 7, Phoenix, Ronning 11 (Sawchenko, 12:34), 12:34, 8, Phoenix, Ronning 11 (Sawchenko, 12:34), 12:34, 9, Phoenix, Ronning 11 (Sawchenko, 12:34), 12:34, 10, Phoenix, Ronning 11 (Sawchenko, 12:34), 12:34, 11, Phoenix, Ronning 11 (Sawchenko, 12:34), 12:34, 12, Phoenix, Ronning 11 (Sawchenko, 12:34), 12:34, 13, Phoenix, Ronning 11 (Sawchenko, 12:34), 12:34, 14, Phoenix, Ronning 11 (Sawchenko, 12:34), 12:34, 15, Phoenix, Ronning 11 (Sawchenko, 12:34), 12:34, 16, Phoenix, Ronning 11 (Sawchenko, 12:34), 12:34, 17, Phoenix, Ronning 11 (Sawchenko, 12:34), 12:34, 18, Phoenix, Ronning 11 (Sawchenko, 12:34), 12:34, 19, Phoenix, Ronning 11 (Sawchenko, 12:34), 12:34, 20, Phoenix, Ronning 11 (Sawchenko, 12:34), 12:34, 21, Phoenix, 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Sports Editors
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Rangers beat Celtic to go top

GLASGOW (Reuters) - Rangers maintained their stranglehold over rivals Celtic to win a crucial Glasgow derby 2-0 yesterday and go top of the Scottish premier division on goal difference.

Goals from Jonas Thern and Jorg Albertz ensured a 12th win in the last 14 Old Firm matches for Rangers, who are chasing a 10th title in a row. Rangers are now level on 66 points with Celtic, but are one goal better off on goal difference with just four games left.

Celtic dominated the early stages but could not find a goal to reward their play. Manager Wim Jansen's side then went behind to a stunning right-foot volley from Swedish midfielder Thern in the 23rd minute.

Albertz hit the second goal in the 66th minute. The German picked up the ball in his own half and left defenders in his wake before firing in a left-foot shot from 15 meters.

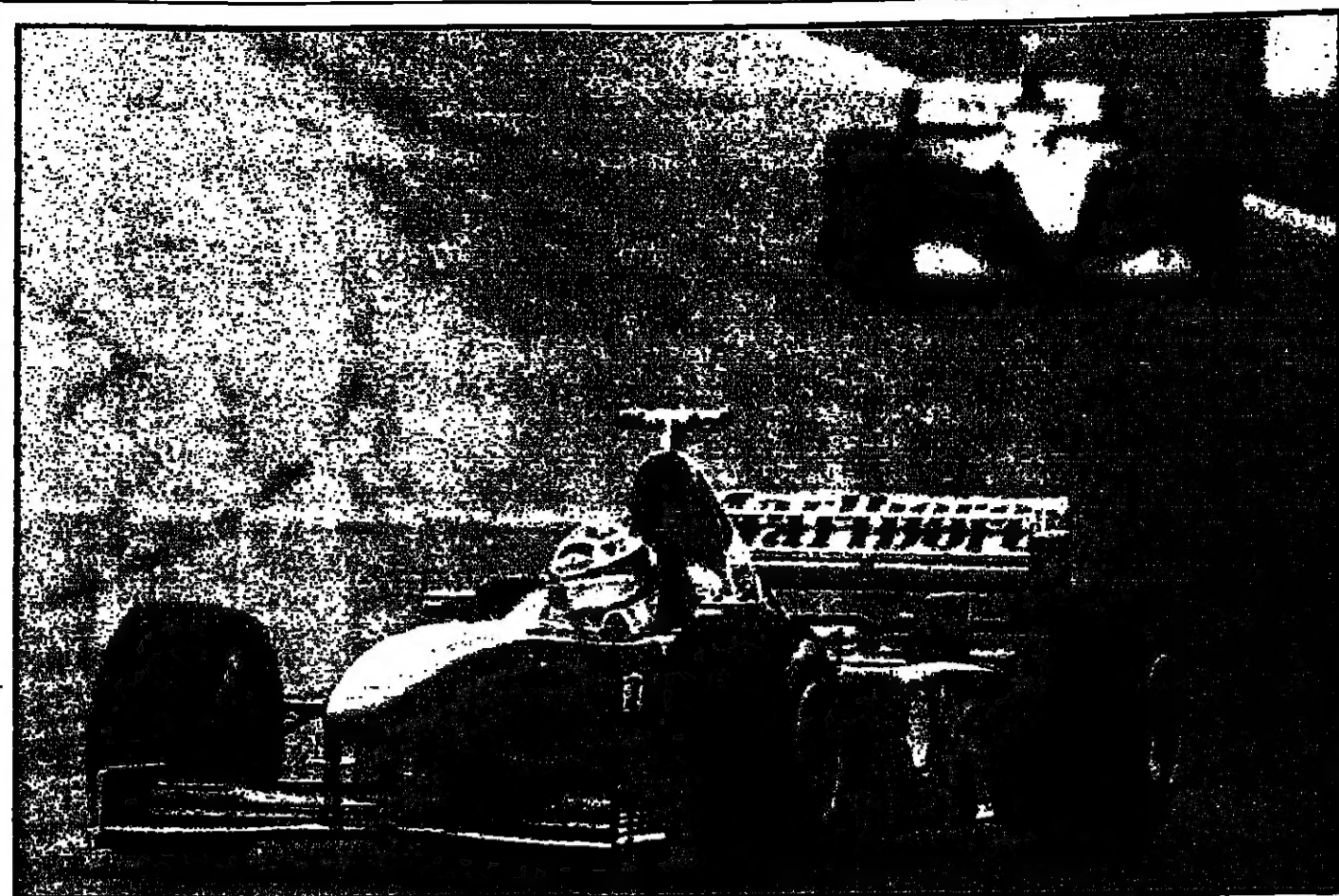
SCOREBOARD

TENNIS - Third seed Alberto Berasategui beat Thomas Muster 3-6, 6-1, 6-3 in the \$625,000 Estoril Open final yesterday.

In Madrid, top seed Patrick Rafter of Australia won the Indian Open with a 6-3, 6-4 win over Mikael Tillstrom of Sweden.

Kenneth Carlsen became the first Dane to win an ATP Tour title by beating Byron Black of Zimbabwe 6-2, 6-0 in the Hong Kong Open.

France's Mary Pierce won the Amelia Island title beating Conchita Martinez of Spain 6-7(5-10), 6-3, 6-2.



Schumacher ends McLaren supremacy

Michael Schumacher ended McLaren's early-season domination when he won yesterday's Argentine Grand Prix in his Ferrari. His victory put him second in the world championship standings, 12 points behind Mika Hakkinen (background), winner of the first two rounds, but relegated to second this time. It was Schumacher's 28th grand prix success. The German, who started from second place on the grid, dropped to third at the start behind pole-sitter David Coulthard and his McLaren team mate Hakkinen. But he soon began pushing hard, taking Hakkinen for second on the second lap and Coulthard for the lead three laps later, despite a collision with the Briton. Britain's Eddie Irvine was third in the second Ferrari, with Austrian Alexander Wurz fourth in a Benetton and Frenchman Jean Alesi fifth in a Sauber.

(Reuters)

Argentinians arrive

By ORI LEWIS

Argentina's national soccer side began its quadrennial pilgrimage to Israel yesterday when the South Americans flew in to begin their final preparations for World Cup '98 in France in June.

The Argentinians, who this time are without ageing legend Diego Maradona, will meet Israel in a friendly international at the capital's Teddy Stadium on Wednesday evening.

This is the fourth straight visit by the former World Champions to the Holy Land before a World Cup tournament. They first came

in 1986, winning 7-2 before capturing the coveted trophy. In 1990 they won 2-1 and in 1994 the score was 3-0 to the visitors.

Israel coach Shlomo Scharf yesterday dropped three players from his squad for the game. Hapoel Tel Aviv will have no representative following the ousting of Felix Halfon and Assi Domb. Itzik Zohar was the third discarded player.

Celta Vigo's Haim Revivo and Eyal Berkovic of West Ham will play on Wednesday, but Tal Banin and Avi Nimni have not been released by their respective sides Brescia and Atletico Madrid.

Jamchy is Rishon's hero

By ELI GROWER

Action in the Sprit Basketball League playoff continued to develop as expected last night as favorites Maccabi Tel Aviv and Maccabi Ra'anana rolled to 2-0 series leads, while Maccabi Rishon and Galil Elyon both won hard-fought contests at home, to even their respective quarterfinal matchups.

The third game in each series will take place on Wednesday night.

Rishon 65, Hapoel Eilat 62.

The knock on Doron Jamchy throughout his career was his constant disappearance in crunch situations. Last night - in the midst of his finest season this decade - Jamchy buried a clutch three-pointer with four seconds remaining to provide Rishon with its margin of

victory and square their playoff series.

Just over one minute earlier, Jamchy connected on one of two free throws to even the score at 62.

Jamchy tallied 22 points overall, on 8 of 13 shooting. He was 3 for 4 from behind the arc.

It was, however, a quirky FIBA rule which enabled Jamchy to provide his heroics. With 14 seconds remaining, the score tied and the shot clock winding down, Eilat's Eddie Elisma made a fantastic block on a Gilad Katz shot attempt, forcing the ball out of bounds.

According to NBA rules, the shot clock would have expired, because the field goal attempt didn't touch the rim. But FIBA rules stipulate that a blocked shot counts as a shot, which meant that Eilat got "pun-

Couples leads Masters after third round

AUGUSTA, Ga. (Reuters) - On a perfect day for golf Fred Couples admittedly did not play his best, but he played well enough to survive several challenges and take a two-stroke lead in the Masters with one round to play.

Couples, the halfway co-leader, shot a one-under 71 for a six-under-par 210 total that left him two shots ahead of Phil Mickelson, Paul Azinger and Mark O'Meara, who all made charges toward the top but faltered late on the warm, windless day that yielded the most sub-par scores of the tournament.

"Possibly, that was a bad round today. I don't know how to explain it," admitted the laconic Couples, the 1992 Masters champion, who lost a stroke off his lead with a bogey at the 18th.

"The whole round I had a lot of chances and just didn't make any putts - pretty simple," Mickelson, still seeking his first major title, put the most pressure on Couples, taking the lead with birdies at the 13th and 14th holes. But Couples responded by making an eagle at the 485-yard 13th to go to seven under par - just seconds after Mickelson went to six under.

"He's tough because he's such a

good player and he's playing as well as he's a difficult leader to catch," Mickelson, who shot 69, said of Couples.

Azinger, who also shot 69 in pursuit of his first victory since winning the 1993 PGA Championship and suffering a bout of cancer, got as close as five under by the 15th. But he bogeyed the next hole to allow Couples to slip away.

"I couldn't win my club championship the way I've been playing but I was completely comfortable today," said Azinger, who has only one top-10 finish on tour this year.

Mark O'Meara, who posted a bogey-free 68, reached four under with birdies at 12 and 13. But he had to settle for pars the rest of the way as Augusta National's back nine proved to be too much for the contenders.

Jim Furyk, whose 67 matched the low score of the day, made the biggest move up the leaderboard. He improved to three under par, tying halfway co-leader David Duval, who skidded to a 74 playing with Couples.

Former champion Jose Maria Olazabal of Spain, Jay Haas and Scott Hoch were all tied four shots off the lead.

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